

GADGETSTM MAGAZINE

THE PHILIPPINES' FIRST TECH LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE



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Tech
wrap-up 2015



PHP 150



Reviewed:

Apple iPhone 6s Plus | Epson EB-U32 | Fiio Q1 | Infinix Hot Note | Lenovo Vibe P1
LG-55EG920T 4K OLED TV | 2015 Chevrolet Trailblazer 2.8 6AT 4x2 LTX



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- **Octa-core processor**
- **3GB RAM + 32GB ROM**



Lenovo VIBE S1
P15,999_{SRP}



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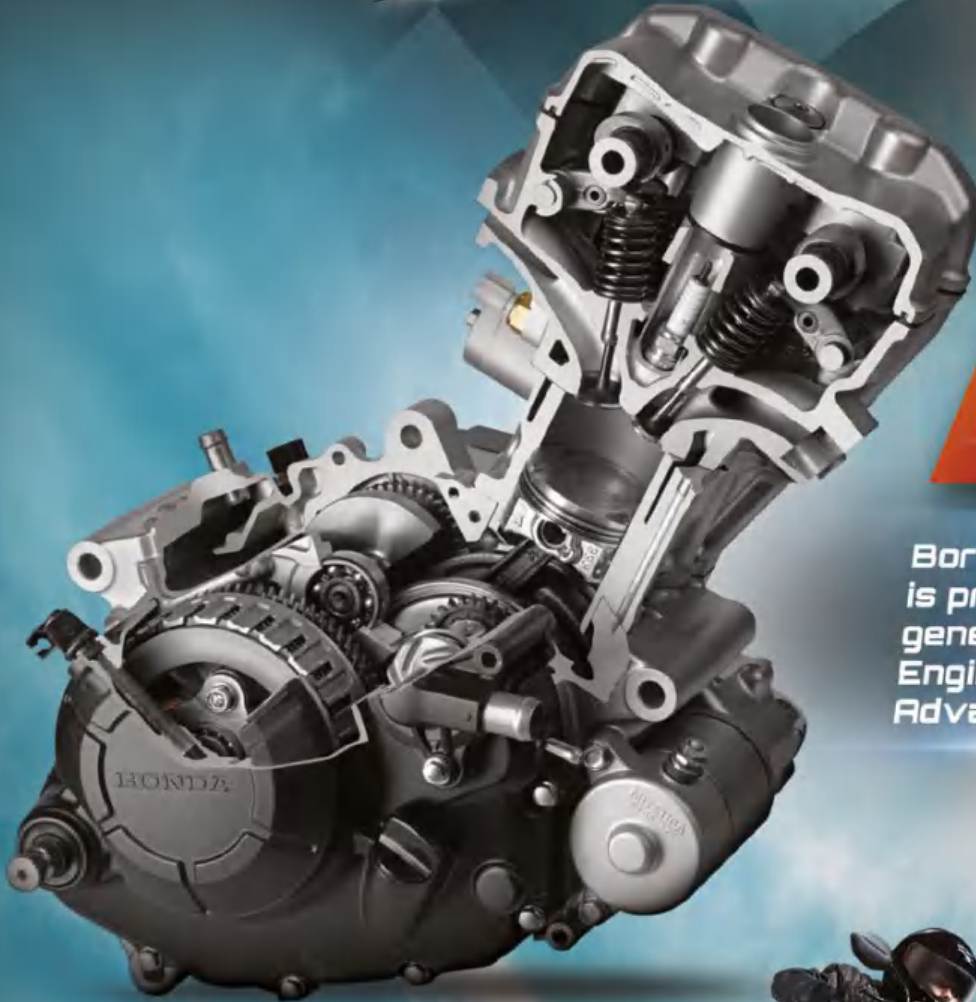
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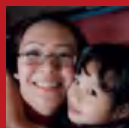
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The quintessential gadgets girl who loves all things Mac, red, and blingy. She's also recently taken a liking to Windows phones. What's in her bag? Lots of wires and cords, several external drives, and power banks. Hide your flash drives, though, they disappear around her.
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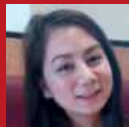
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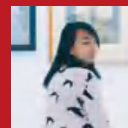
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@emnluz



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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone!

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The holidays are once again upon us. If your year was anything like ours, it must have all been a blur. Tech never stops, and 2015 was no different. We saw developments build on top of each other, companies changing hands, and devices continuing to evolve at an exponential pace. As the year comes to a close, we look back at what 2015 gave us, and forward at the promise of 2016. It's been an honor giving you all the latest updates in the tech world. For one more time this year, join us as we look at what we've got this month, as we put this year to bed. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas, and a prosperous year ahead! See you in 2016!



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AOC

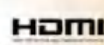
SCRATCH IT TO WIN IT



I2769VM

27"

Key Features



- AH-IPS Panel
- LED Panel: Hg Free
- Multimedia-Ready with HDMI Input
- MHL- Mobile High-Definition Link
- Displayport
- Dynamic Contrast Ratio (DCR)
- Clear Vision
- Ultra Low Power Consumption
- Off Timer
- Eco Mode
- Wall Bracket: Yes
- VGA, MHL, HDMI, DP
- Full HD - 1920 x 1080

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23", 23.6", 27"	2pcs scratch cards

Promo Period: November 15 to December 30, 2015



19.5"
E2070SWN

Key Features

- Dynamic Contrast Ratio (DCR)
- LED Panel: Hg Free
- 16.7 Million Colors
- Ultra Low Power Consumption
- e-Saver
- Wall Bracket: Yes
- VGA
- TN Panel
- HD - 1600 x 900



19.53"
M2060SWD

Key Features

- Full HD MVA Panel
- LED Panel: Hg Free
- Ultra Low Power Consumption
- Hair-Line Texture
- Dynamic Contrast Ratio (DCR)
- Eco Mode
- e-Saver
- Wall Bracket: Yes
- VGA, DVI
- Full HD - 1920 x 1080



20.7"
E2180SWN

Key Features

- FHD 1920x1080 High Resolution
- Flicker Free Backlight Technology
- Clear Vision
- e-Saver
- TFT Panel
- VGA
- Wall Bracket: Yes



21.5"
E2250SWDN

Key Features

- Green LED Monitor
- Dynamic Contrast Ratio (DCR)
- Eco mode
- Off Timer
- 16.7 Million of Colours
- Dynamic Colour Boost (DCB)
- Direct insert for easy plug-in
- Wall Mount: Yes
- Full HD - 1920 x 1080
- TFT Panel



21.5"
E2270SWDN

Key Features

- LED Panel: Hg Free
- Dynamic Contrast Ratio (DCR)
- e-Saver
- 16.7 Million Colors
- Wall Bracket: Yes
- VGA
- HD - 1920 x 1080
- TN Panel



23.6"
M2461FWH

Key Features

- Clear Vision
- e-Saver
- Dynamic Contrast Ratio (DCR)
- Ultra Low Power Consumption
- Eco Mode
- Multimedia-Ready with HDMI + Input
- Off Timer
- Energy Star
- Wall Bracket: Yes
- MVA Panel
- VGA, HDMI
- Full HD - 1920 x 1080



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Canon EOS M10 ▶

Mirrorless Interchangeable-Lens Camera

Another capable compact shooter has landed on our shores! The leader in digital imaging solutions, Canon, pairs the image quality of an EOS DSLR with the convenience of a compact point-and-shoot in one lightweight and modish, capable shooter, the EOS M10. This mirrorless, interchangeable-lens camera comes bundled with a compact EF-M15-45 mm f/3.5-6.3 IS STM lens, ensuring you capture quality images every time you press the shutter. To view your subject and captured images, the EOS M10 is equipped with a tilt-type 3-inch LCD touchscreen that can be flipped up to 180 degrees for shots and selfies at varying angles. It comes with an intuitive user interface, Creative Assist editing capabilities, and connectivity features which makes taking and sharing photos a whole lot easier. Capturing photos is as straightforward and convenient as a smartphone with superior image quality that only comes from Canon's latest DSLR technology.



◀ Canon PowerShot G9 X

Digital Camera

In the market for a feature-filled yet convenient everyday camera? Canon has you covered. Built with the latest Canon imaging technology, the G9 X is set to impress with its large 1.0-inch 20.2-megapixel CMOS sensor that together with a proprietary DIGIC 6 image processor renders higher sensitivity for stunning image quality. This pocket-sized, compact shooter utilizes a 28-84mm (35mm equivalent) 3x optical zoom lens to provide users with sufficient coverage in varied shooting scenarios. For detailed storytelling, it is equipped with movie editing functions along with the ability to record 1080p Full HD videos. Canon designed the G9 X with the ease of users in mind, it features a new optimized button layout on the user interface for hassle-free navigation. The 3-inch touch screen complements the control ring around the lens for adjusting the camera settings—ISO speed, aperture, and focus—without a hitch. The G9 X also comes with Wi-Fi and NFC connectivity for easy sharing of photos between compatible cameras, smart devices, and Canon iMAGE GATEWAY (CiG).



◀Lenovo Vibe P1m Smartphone

The Lenovo Vibe P1m is a smartphone that will most likely outlast you on any working day. It features a massive 4000mAh battery powering its 64-bit MediaTek 1.0GHz quad-core processor, 2GB RAM, 16GB expandable storage, 5-inch HD display, and 8MP rear and 5MP front shooters. If that still isn't enough juice for you, the P1m also comes with a power saver switch for even longer battery life and if it's finally in the red, quick charge will get it back up and running in no time at all. Additionally, its polycarbonate with splash-proof nano coating ensures it's safe from any accidental waterworks. The Lenovo Vibe P1m comes in colors onyx black and pearl white.

PHP 7,999

Lenovo Vibe S1▶ Smartphone

Take one of a kind selfies with the Lenovo Vibe S1, a brawny yet stylish smartphone with dual—yes, two—cameras up front. One is an 8MP BSI deal for capturing details, while the other is a 2MP snapper for depth of field analysis. The combo allows for clearer photos with tons of creative options such as focus adjustment and auto cropping. Just as capable is its rear 13MP camera with dual-color flash for natural skin tones. Meanwhile, smooth performance is courtesy of a 64-bit MediaTek 1.7GHz octa-core processor, 3GB RAM, 32GB expandable storage, and 2500mAh battery. With an aluminum frame, front and curved rear Gorilla Glass 3, white and gold colors, and Android 5.0 lollipop in tow, this 5-inch device will be a tough one to put down.

PHP 15,999





JBL Cinema SB250 ▲

Home Theater Audio System

Put yourself right in the middle of the action with this soundbar-wireless subwoofer combo from JBL. It packs 200 watts of home theatre sound, Dolby Digital and Harman Virtual Surround Sound compatibility, and a design that can seamlessly blend with any wall mounted or standing TV installation. Audio is passed through a single optical or analog cable connection, while the separate subwoofer wirelessly connects to the soundbar for a clean looking setup. Whether it's a tank rolling at you, a space fighter jet zooming overhead, or bullets whizzing past said noggin, the JBL Cinema SB250 will make sure you enjoy your movie the way it's meant to be consumed.

PHP 15,990



◀ Remix Mini

Android PC

Yes. Android PC. The Remix Mini is not an Android Box where you're basically getting a TV-optimized version of Android. No, it's as close as you can get to the true desktop experience on the Android 5.1 Lollipop OS. What this means is you get a taskbar, keyboard and mouse optimization, multitasking, and file manager akin to a full tower, but in a package just a tad larger than a deck of cards. It features the Remix OS 2.0 running on a 1.2GHz quad-core Allwinner A53 processor, 8/16GB of expandable storage, and 1/2GB RAM, with Wi-Fi, Ethernet, USB 2.0, HDMI, and audio jack all present for connectivity. Just plug in the power brick and peripherals, and you're good to go.



Starmobile Knight Spectra ▲ Smartphone

Touted as the most advanced local cameraphone, the Knight Spectra takes pride in its dual rear camera and built-in Star Cam functionality to take phonography to greater heights. The two camera modules work in tandem to help you take pictures that stand out. The 2MP sensor gathers information about light, exposure, and distance, thus allowing the 13MP sensor to take brilliant photos quickly and accurately. Star Cam functions allow you to edit and enhance your pictures. The Knight Spectra is powered by a Qualcomm octa-core processor, has LTE connectivity, 3GB RAM, and 32GB internal memory (expandable via microSD). It also has built-in Digital TV, a free service that lets you watch and record your favorite shows in real time. It has a 5.5-inch full-HD AMOLED screen and is wrapped front and back in scratch-resistant glass.

PHP 15,990



Epson SureColor F9270 ▲

Textile Printer

Epson is once again setting the bar high with the release of its next generation textile dye-sublimation printer. The environment-friendly SC-F9270 features a new high-density black ink that produces richer black prints. This is beneficial for high-volume commercial applications that require impressive print quality at a low running cost. It is capable of delivering remarkable performance by combining the speed, precision, and durability of the PrecisionCore printhead technology with an original dual 1.5L ink tank system. Add to that, the F9270 features print speeds of up to 100.1m²/h and can print on fabrics up to 64 inches wide, all of which make for highly efficient and reliable production runs.

PHILIPS

Monitors

Christmas Promo



284E5QHAD 28"

Panel Type: MVA
Connectivity: VGA, HDMI x2
Wall Mount: VESA mount
Wide Viewing Angle
Mobile High-Definition Link
SmartImage Lite
Wide Viewing Angle

2x HDMI
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Hg Free
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243V5QHSBA 23.6"



Panel Type: MVA
Connectivity: VGA, DVI-D, HDMI
Wall Mount: VESA mount
Wide Viewing Angle
LED
Smart Control Lite
Smart Contrast
HDMI
Low Power
Hg Free
Windows 8 Compatible

Free P500 SM GiftCard



243V5LSB 23.6"



Panel Type: TFT-LCD
Connectivity: VGA, DVI-D
Wall Mount: VESA mount
LED
Response Time: 5ms
Smart Contrast
Smart Control Lite
Low Power
Hg Free
Windows 8 Compatible

Free P500 SM GiftCard



234E5QSB 23"



Panel Type: AH-IPS LCD
Connectivity: VGA, DVI-D
Wall Mount: VESA mount
Ultra Narrow Bezel
Wide Viewing Angle

Mobile High-Definition Link
Built-in Speakers
Smart Image Lite
Full HD 1080p
Hg Free
Windows 8 Compatible

Free P300
Starbucks Gift Check



224E5QSB 21.5"



Panel Type: IPS-AH
Connectivity: VGA, DVI-D
Wall Mount: VESA mount
Wide Viewing Angle
LED

Smart Contrast
Full HD 1080p
Hg Free
Windows 8 Compatible

Free P100
Starbucks Gift Check



223V5LSB2 21.5"



Panel Type: TFT-LCD
Connectivity: VGA
Wall Mount: Support
LED
Smart Contrast

Response Time: 5ms
Low Power
Hg Free
Windows 8 Compatible

Free P100
Starbucks Gift Check



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◀ WD My Book Pro Network Attached Storage

Have to live with large files but your workstation doesn't have enough space to house them all? The My Book Pro's willing to be your cargo hold, with its blazing fast 435MB/s transfer rate ensuring that you're files are written and read in mere seconds. It achieves this through dual 20Gb/s Intel Thunderbolt 2 ports and hot-swappable hardware RAID 0, 1, or JBOD setup on the two 7200RPM WD platter drives. Moreover, the My Book Pro allows daisy chaining of up to six Thunderbolt and two USB 3.0 devices so you can view and access your files from multiple vantage points. It's a really indispensable tool for professionals and enthusiasts alike. t

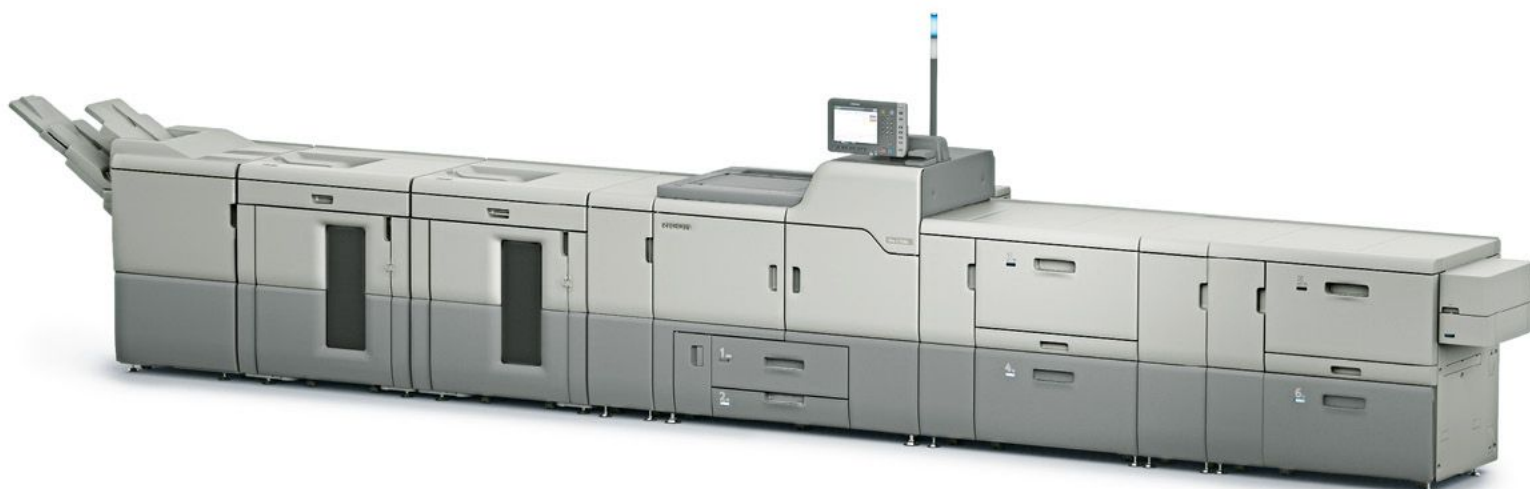
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PHP 47,990 (10TB)
PHP 53,990 (12TB)

Bose SoundTouch III▶ Bluetooth Speakers

Living life with a live soundtrack is the dream. Unfortunately, it hasn't been the easiest thing to accomplish—at least until now. Bose wants to change how you listen to music at home with the SoundTouch III Bluetooth and Wi-Fi-enabled speaker family, the newest addition to which is the small, but powerful SoundTouch 10. This little speaker combines Bose's digital signal processing with the new *Unidome* transducer that allows the SoundTouch 10 to play clearer, deeper, and louder than any speaker its size. It, along with its bigger brothers the SoundTouch 20 and 30, let you stream music from your phone, a NAS, or music streaming service with the use of Bose's extremely intuitive smartphone app. Got a file on your device you want to share with everyone? Pair it with one of the SoundTouch speakers, and it can stream that same track, perfectly synced to all other SoundTouch devices on your network with a tap of a button.

PHP 13,000





Ricoh Pro C7100X Series ▲

Digital Full Color Production Printer

When you're in the printing business, a burly and dependable workhorse such as those in the Ricoh Pro C7100X Series is an absolute must. Featuring an Intel Xeon processor clocked at 3.5GHz, up to eight 2GB memory modules, a 500GB HDD, and a vertical-cavity surface-emitting laser (VSCSEL), the C7100X printers are able to churn out 1200 x 4800dpi pages sure to earn the nod of patrons. It outputs 90ppm in both color and monochrome jobs while supporting thick stock up to 360gsm and banners up to 700mm. To ensure maximum uptimes, they also come with a built-in liquid cooling system as well as five-year or 14,400,000 pages warranty, whichever comes first.



Ricoh Pro 8100S Series ▲

Mono Production Printers

Print miles upon miles of monochrome pages using Ricoh's Pro 8100S Series printers. Perfect for businesses whose clients demand nothing but the best, these sport a 1.86GHz Celeron processor, 2GB RAM, and two 250GB SATA drives for even the most complex queues. The series boasts of a 3,000,000 page per month duty cycle, with modified paper guides, double feed detection sensor, revised airflow design, and liquid cooling system keeping everything flowing nicely. Outputs are no slouch either at a 1200 x 4800dpi resolution thanks to Ricoh's innovative vertical-cavity surface-emitting laser (VSCSEL) technology. Whether it's taking on textbooks, documents, manuals, or posters, the 8100S Series will surely get the job done.

Brother HL-L8350CDW► Printer

Time is money, and every second counts when you're a business trying to be as efficient as possible. The Brother HL-L8350CDW seeks to take the hassle out of printing documents with its high-speed 30ppm printing speed for both color and monochrome projects. Further enhancing its cost-savings capacity is its 6,000 page yield per toner cartridge; Secure Function Lock 3.0 for group usage; mobile printing capability; and BRAdmin Professional Software network administration tool to reduce system downtime. Moreover, the printer is part of Brother's green initiative, coming with an energy saving sleep mode function and a rewards program for all returns of empty toner and drum cartridges.

PHP 29,990



◀ Genius NX-7000 Wireless Mouse

The Genius NX-7000 wireless mouse offers true tracking freedom with its 1200 dpi BlueEye technology. This surface-friendly feature provides its users amazing tracking accuracy even on marble, glass, a sofa, or on a carpet. It has a contoured shape design suitable for all-day use. With a built-in compartment for the receiver, you can store it whenever you are on the go. The Genius NX-7000 is available in spring green, elegant white, calm black, passion red, and ocean blue variants.

PHP 450



◀ **Asus UX305** Ultrabook

Those looking for a small, portable notebook that doesn't skimp on power needn't look farther than the UX305 from Asus. This diminutive laptop measures in at just half an inch thick, with a footprint of just 12.8 x 8.9 inches. It has an 800MHz Intel Core M 5Y10 dual-core processor that boosts up to 2GHz, 8GB of DDR3 RAM, and a roomy 13.3-inch FHD screen for all your viewing needs. A 256GB SSD, and three USB ports, plus a micro HDMI port, an SD card slot, and a 3.5mm audio jack round out this handy little lappy. Small, light, mobile—it's all you ever need from a laptop.

Asus GL552 ▶ Gaming Laptop

Get your game on with the GL552 from Asus. This ROG-branded beast is a 15.6-inch gaming laptop that combines brushed aluminum styling, a gorgeous red back-lit keyboard, and a monster Intel Core i7-4720HQ quad-core processor with Nvidia GTX 950M graphics. With 8GB of DDR3L memory, 1TB of storage, and a full-HD IPS display, you've got all the makings of a mobile gaming monster. Coupled with Asus' SonicMaster audio for pitch-perfect sound, and ROG's GameFirst III software, you've got everything you need to game as hard as you can, wherever you are.



PHP 69,995

Leica SL ▶ Mirrorless Camera

From the legendary German camera maker comes the Leica SL, a stunning camera that's equal parts great shooter and refined piece of art. At its heart is a full-frame 24MP CMOS sensor backed by a Maestro II Series processor and 2GB of RAM, ensuring it's always ready to capture crisp and detailed photos at a moment's notice. It struts the company's EyeRes viewfinder technology allowing for high-resolution and low latency previews typically found on an optical viewfinder. Though the Leica SL looks like a delicate flower, it's really anything but. The body's a dust and splash-proof aluminum one so whether you're in a studio or the wild outdoors, the perfect photo's just a shutter press away.



◀ Panasonic WV-SW559 Surveillance Camera

Sleep peacefully at night with the Panasonic WV-SW559 surveillance camera keeping an eye on your valuables. The Panasonic WV-SW559 is part of a series of 1080p network video surveillance cameras that simultaneously deliver both full HD images and 360p images. Enclosed in an IP66-rated water- and dust-resistant dome, the camera uses a 2.8-10mm 3.6x varifocal auto-iris lens so you can clearly see who goes in and out of your property without having to squint. Panasonic's UniPhier S LSI processor provides simultaneous cropping of whole and part images, lower bandwidth storage requirements, more VIQS zones, dual H.264 streaming capability, and overall higher-level of functionality. Meanwhile, face detection analytics detect the position of a human face and send the information via video stream. Featuring a switchable infrared-cut filter, this outdoor-ready and vandal-resistant network camera is ideal for 24-hour surveillance and can be installed in vulnerable positions without risk of damage.



◀ Panasonic PT-LB412 Projector

Turn your brainstorming sessions and meetings into more productive affairs with a reliable projector like the Panasonic PT-LB412. Featuring a throw ratio of 1.48-1.78:1, a bright 4,100lm output, 1024 x 768 resolution, and 12,000:1 contrast ratio, the PT-LB412 is perfect for the projection needs of anything from schools to corporations. RCA, VGA, HDMI, LAN, USB B, and USB ports are all standard fare, ready to accept a multitude of inputs, even through Wi-Fi courtesy of Panasonic's wireless dongle accessory. It also boasts real-time keystone correction and various color modes so you always get the best viewing experience possible without the fuss of tinkering with the menu.

Panasonic PT-TW341R▶ Projector

Want to hold a meeting but you'd have to tear down an entire wall just to get your projector properly set up? Fret no more as the Panasonic TW341R short-throw projector is here to save you from a premature room remodel. With a 0.46:1 throw ratio, the TW341R only needs half a meter of space to project an image 50-inches in diagonal, with bigger sizes available as the distance increases. Inputs are courtesy of RCA, VGA, HDMI, LAN, USB Type-B, and USB Type-A ports, while images are thrown via a 3,500lm lamp with an 8,000 hour life rating for your peace of mind.



LG V10▶ Smartphone

Designed to provide a rich multimedia experience, LG has launched the first of its V-series phones with the LG V10. It features 5MP dual front cameras with two separate lenses to capture standard 80-degree selfies or wide-angle 120-degree groupies. In multi-view mode, you can utilize all 3 cameras—two front, 1 rear—to capture up to four different angles. It also offers manual video mode, with control over shutter speed, frame rate, ISO, white balance, and focus. Video can be recorded in HD, FHD or UHD, and in 16:9 standard or 21:9 cinematic aspect ratio. Another distinctive feature is the introduction of a second screen, which is an independent inset display above the main 5.7-inch screen. The LG V10 is powered by a Qualcomm Snapdragon 808 processor running on Android 5.1.1 Lollipop. It has 4GB RAM and 64GB ROM expandable up to 2TB via microSD.

PHP 37,990



◀Chord Mojo Pocket DAC/Amplifier

If you're looking to push your portable listening experience further, you're going to need more than just a fancy pair of headphones. You'll need a pocket amp. The Chord Mojo takes the exceptionally well-received Chord Hugo, and makes it both smaller and easier on the budget. With a bulletproof aluminum body, USB, co-ax, and optical inputs, and the ability to support 4 to 800 Ohm headphones, this is an audiophile's dream come true. The pocket amp/DAC combo can play files from 32 to 512 kHz, for the best audio experience you can possibly have without being right in the middle of the performance. With up to 10 hours of use on a single 4 hour charge, this means the music won't stop until you do. Experience hi-def music on your smartphone, and treat yourself to the best your headphones can perform with the Chord Mojo.

PHP 30,990

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LG 55EG920T 4K OLED TV

Reviewed by Maribelle Alba

The world's first curved 4K OLED TV from LG has earned accolades as the "King of TV" at the 11th Annual Value Electronics TV Shootout 2015 during CE Week, and the Best Product 2015-2016 in the European Home Theater TV category during the European Imaging and Sound Association (EISA) 2015 awards. We learn more about its winning ways at the GadgetsLab.

DESIGN ★★★★★

LG makes beautiful, airy curved TV designs that seem to float on air, and the 55EG920T is no exception. The super-slim screen—barely three credit cards thin—blends art form with technology, and makes this a great focal point for whichever room it graces.

The curved screen is almost edge-to-edge, with hardly any visible bezel, so nothing distracts from the ultra-HD view. The TV frame "floats" on a clear plastic stand assembly supported by a curved metal base.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Display: OLED TV; 3840 x 2160p
Video: Triple XD Engine
Sound: 2ch speaker
Processor: webOS 2.0 Smart TV
Features: Flicker-free, Dual Play, Time Machine, DivX HD, Miracast
Connectivity: Headphone jack, RF antenna, HDMI, AV-in, component-in, optical digital audio out, USB, LAN
Dimensions: 1225 x 762 x 191mm (with stand)
Weight: 16.5kg (with stand)

What's Hot:

- 4K + OLED + Curved = outstanding viewing experience
- Beautiful, ultra-thin curved design
- Intuitive webOS interface

What's Not:

- Pricey

Right in the middle of the bottom edge of the screen are the remote/intelligent sensors, as well as a joystick button that you can use to operate the TV, in case you lose the Magic Remote. LG has designed the latter to resemble and work like a game controller by pointing, scrolling, and clicking at on-screen menu options.

At the back on the left side are usual connectivity interfaces, including USB and HDMI ports.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

The 55EG920T boasts 4K Ultra-HD resolution which, at 3840 x 2160p, delivers four times the detail and clarity of a Full-HD TV with just 1080p resolution. It also features OLED screen technology, which utilizes self-illuminating pixels, producing color quality that is superior to ordinary, back-lit LED screens. With OLED, each pixel turns on/off individually, so you get vivid, lifelike colors. Finally, it has a curved screen that delivers a more natural field of vision with no distortions from different viewing angles.

Individually, these three innovations—4K UHD, OLED, and Curved—could be considered outstanding features; put them together in a single television unit and you get the award-winning 55EG920T.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

LG's webOS 2.0 interface is simple and intuitive—in most instances, all you need to do is point the Magic Remote at the screen, scroll through the options, and click on your choice. Connecting it to my home network was a breeze, and it instantly

recognized my media devices. The webOS launcher conveniently lets you navigate through apps, connected peripherals, etc., without having to leave the current screen.

Personally, the LG 55EG920T is for me, the best TV I've reviewed so far, with supremely clear, crisp images. Colors are natural and life-like, and not over-saturated or too bright. At the same time, you see the nuances of dark colors, without loss of detail and contrast. The curved screen added to the immersive, cinematic experience. I must confess I binge-watched an entire TV series for about 12-hours straight, for the sheer viewing pleasure.

Slightly disappointing is the 2-channel audio setup, a step down from the Harman/Kardon sound system usually found in LG's top-tier models.

VALUE ★★★★★

The indicative price, based on online sites, should be between PHP160,000 to PHP200,000—definitely beyond the typical TV budget. On the other hand, it's a price range that may have a niche among premium buyers who want the latest and the best for their homes. The ability to upgrade with the latest software updates ensure that the LG 55EG920T retains its value over time and does not become obsolete. The warranty is 24-months for both parts and labor for worry-free ownership.

BOTTOMLINE

If you're looking for a big-ticket item to bring home this Christmas, this should be on your shopping list.



Infinix Hot Note

Reviewed by Chris Noel Hidalgo

In a market as price-sensitive as the Philippines, smartphone manufacturers need the right mix of affordability and performance if they hope to be a top-of-mind brand. Infinix Mobility, one of the country's newest smartphone players, is hoping to carve their name into the wallet-friendly-but-powerful segment with their first local offering, the Hot Note. They sent one over to the GadgetsLab and here's how it managed.

DESIGN ★★★★★

The Infinix Hot Note is quite vanilla in terms of design, with everything right where you'd expect them to be. Over at the front, it has the call speaker, proximity sensor, and selfie camera at the top edge; the 5.5-inch screen with quite a bit of bezel occupies most of the real estate; and the three capacitive buttons are at the bottom.

The back is brushed with faux aluminum and houses the primary shooter with LED flash on the upper left, and the main speaker grille at the bottom. The minimalist, silver "Infinix" branding sits in the middle, while the laser printed "Hot Note" marquee is above the speaker.

Meanwhile, the volume rocker and power button is at the right edge; microphone pinhole and microUSB port is on the bottom; and the 3.5mm jack is at the top.

It's not badly designed overall, but it does lean a lot towards the bland side.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

If in years past, bang for the buck sub-PHP 6,000 smartphones were strutting mere quad-cores, today's generations of value for money smartphones are strutting octa-cores, at least 2GB of RAM, a huge display, and decent shooters.

The Hot Note in particular has the mid-range MediaTek MT6592 octa-core processor ticking at 1.4GHz, accompanied by a Mali-450 GPU. It sports 2GB of memory buffer along with 16GB of storage expandable via microSD; and it also has 8MP and 2MP shooters at the back and front—pretty standard fare.

What sets it apart from the competition is its massive 4000mAh battery pack that's rated for up to two days of use. It also has flash charging technology which provides seven hours of performance for just 20 minutes on the wall. Coupled with the 2A output of

the bundled charger, the phone shouldn't die on you unless you're deliberately draining it dry.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

While the phone looks nondescript, it keeps all its fancy bling on the inside where it counts. Booting it up, the first thing I immediately noticed was how bright the screen was even on the dimmest setting. Cranking the brightness up, the display was clearly visible even outside on a sunny day.

XUI was also a high point for the Hot Note. Aside from new icon skins, Infinix's take on Android 5.1 introduces Ultra Power Saving Mode which almost doubles standby time when the battery falls below 10-percent. Speaking of the juicer, it takes under an hour to charge it from nothing to 75-percent.

What stopped the phone from getting a higher score was its synthetic performance. I was surprised that it only nailed a score of 29,191 in AnTuTu Benchmark, behind that of some phones in its price point. Some phones using the exact same SoC were able to score some 3,000 points more, and the culprit is definitely the 5.5-inch screen. Bigger displays do require more oomph to run their pixels.

Still, it's good enough for everyday use, i.e. multimedia playback, gaming, and of course, your calls and texts. Beyond the synthetics, real life performance was very pleasing. The cameras, while not great, also took decent photos for social media uploads.

VALUE ★★★★★

Pegged at the PHP 6,000 mark, the Infinix Hot Note is one of the few phones in its segment that's able to pack a massive battery and respectable hardware into one affordable package. Though it's admittedly not the most powerful phone among its peers, it should be a decent daily driver for all but the most demanding users. The sleek XUI also hit the custom overlay sweet spot.



SPECIFICATIONS:

Operating System: Android 5.1 Lollipop with Infinix XUI overlay
Processor: 1.4GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6592
GPU: Mali-450 GPU
Display: 5.5-inch HD IPS, 1280 x 720 pixels, 267ppi
Cameras: 8MP rear camera with LED flash; 2MP front camera
Internal Memory: 2GB RAM, 16GB expandable storage
Battery: Non-removable 4000mAh Li-Po
Connectivity: Wi-Fi 802.11 b/g, hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0, A-GPS, dual micro SIM
Physical Dimensions: 156x77x8.9mm
Weight: 172g

What's Hot:

- Huge battery with flash charging
- Bright screen
- XUI is unobtrusive

What's Not:

- Single threaded performance is so-so
- Plain design

BOTTOMLINE

I like big batts and I cannot lie.



Epson EB-U32

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara



Epson is a name that's now synonymous with a lot of things, not the least of which are projectors. We here at *Gadgets* love us a good projector, and while work is of primary importance, we also value the ability to kick back, relax, and enjoy some entertainment every once in a while.

DESIGN ★★★★★

The Epson EB-U32 is a nondescript little white box with rounded edges and black accents. It's got a very clean, work machine vibe to it that just doesn't call attention to itself. The top of the projector is home to the various buttons that call up the device's menu and control the features, and are labelled very clearly. The business end has the lens, behind which are the knobs for image size and focus, and a handy shutter that shuts the image off and turns the audio down. This is also home to the exhaust port, which is a very welcome move, and keeps the projector from blowing hot air where people are likely to be. The back of the projector has all the ports and connectors you're ever going to need, be it for work or play.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

Where do we even start? We could mention Epson's brightness levels across all colors (not just white), which delivers clear, sharp, saturated images regardless of what you're projecting. You've got 3200 ANSI lumens shooting out the front, which is more than enough, even with room lighting on. Another is the absolute abundance of inputs in the back. RCA, USB, VGA, not one, but two HDMI, and S-Video are all supported. Don't have the right wire? No problem. The projector even supports wireless video casting via a simple app you just need to install on your device. All the connectivity options you're ever reasonably going to need are right there, bar none.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

The Epson EB-U32 is, by definition, a business-oriented device, and as such, it performs exceedingly well. Easy to set-up, with support for both newer and older devices (HDMI and VGA), with a small footprint that's perfect for placing on the meeting room table when you need it, and stowing away in the supply cabinet when you're done. The device quite happily throws a very bright image that's more than sharp enough for even the largest of spreadsheets. On our own office wall, it had no problem giving us a bright image about the size of a 55-inch TV, even with the office fluorescent lamps all on. Should you need more than one source, a few taps on the (thankfully) easy-to-navigate menu brings up a split-screen option that displays the images from two different sources,

side-by-side. It's even nice enough to take care of angling the image correctly when the projector isn't perfectly square in front of the surface being projected on. A remote gives you access to all the projector's features, and is likewise easy to understand and operate. Really, it's right at home at the office.

But we aren't all just office creatures. Once the office review was complete, I took the projector home and proceeded to test my suspicions that this was more than just a data projector. I found the barest wall I had, hooked the device up to the Playstation, and proceeded to immerse myself in *Metal Gear Solid V*. My suspicions were confirmed: this thing is capable of way more than spreadsheets and Powerpoint presentations. It's superbly bright across all the colors, so the gaming experience is incredibly immersive, even with the room lights on. Since the image was larger than the TV I normally use, I could see details better, none of which were lost, even at the roughly 60-inch "screen" I was throwing. Epson is even nice enough to include speakers in the projector itself, removing the necessity to think of some workaround to get audio from the Playstation. Some might say gaming on a projector is overkill, but I guarantee that those who say that are ones who haven't actually tried it. It does an even better job at video, as it has more than enough light to throw a large image—larger than is practical for gaming. I didn't have a wall large enough to produce an image that the ambient lighting could wash out, so dim lights and a movie are going to be a piece of cake.

Now, I know that some of you are thinking that the projector can't do blacks well, which would make gaming and video-viewing suffer a bit. That's not the case with the U32. All that brightness plays a nice trick on the eye. When there's black on the screen, the colors surrounding it are so bright, thanks to all that spare light the projector has to offer, that the blacks are more than satisfactory for gaming purposes. If I didn't hear the quiet hum of the fan, I would have forgotten I was using a projector at all. Another surprisingly useful feature on the U32 is the Epson iProjection App, which allows you to send content from your smartphone (or laptop via the Easy MP Software) wirelessly, as long as you're on the same network. It might seem gimmicky, but it's exceedingly convenient for both work and play. The interface is simple enough, and getting it to work doesn't require an IT degree.

VALUE ★★★★★

The EB-U32 is an extremely versatile machine for both work and play. Presentations, gaming, and videos—all of these are tackled easily by the U32. Given the sticker price of PHP 39,190, that makes it a real steal.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Projection System: 3LCD Technology
LCD Panel: 0.67-inch with MLA (D10)
Color Light Output: 3,200 Lumen-2,240 Lumen (economy) In accordance with IDMS15.4
White Light Output: 3,200 Lumen - 2,240 Lumen (economy) In accordance with ISO 21118:2012
Resolution: WUXGA, 1920 x 1200, 16:10
High Definition: Full HD
Aspect Ratio: 16:10
Contrast Ratio: 15,000 : 1
Lamp: 200W, 5,000h durability, 10,000h durability (economy mode)
Keystone Correction: Auto vertical: ± 30°, Manual horizontal ± 30°
2D Vertical Refresh Rate: 50Hz - 85Hz
Projection Size: 30inches - 300inches
Projection Distance Wide/Tele: 1.8m - 2.17m (60 inch screen)
Projection Lens F Number: 1.5 - 1.71
Focal Distance: 20.42mm - 24.5mm
USB Display Function: 3in 1: Image / Mouse / Sound
Interfaces: Cinch audio in, MHL, Composite in, HDMI in (2x), VGA in, Wireless LAN IEEE 802.11b/g/n, USB 2.0 Type B, USB 2.0 Type A
Epson iProjection App: Ad-Hoc / Infrastructure
Product dimensions: 297 x 244 x 77mm (Width x Depth x Height)
Product weight: 2.6kg

What's Hot:

- Very bright
- Wireless connectivity, plus all the inputs you'll ever need
- Small form factor

What's Not:

- Speaker might not be powerful enough for some entertainment purposes

BOTTOMLINE

I'm trying to get the office to score one so I can borrow it on weekends.

Apple iPhone 6s Plus

Reviewed by Maribelle Alba

Apple says that with the iPhone 6s, "the only thing that's changed is everything." Let's see if this is indeed so.

DESIGN ★★★★★

The iPhone 6s Plus is, on the outside, almost exactly the same as its predecessor, having added just a tenth of a millimeter to its height and width, so last year's cases are still usable. The introduction of 3D Touch Display has, however, added to the girth and heft (20g) of the unit, actually giving it a sturdier feel.

Hardly distinguishable from the previous model, the new 6s phones are touted to be built with the strongest materials—7000 Series aluminum on the body and X-ion glass on the Retina HD screens.

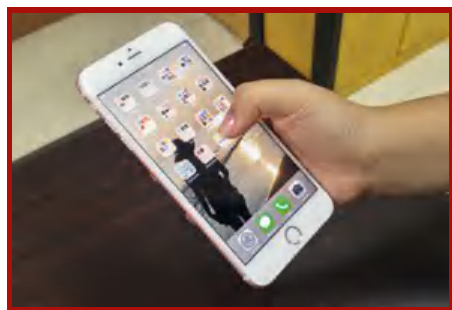
A new rose gold color has been added to the standard gold, silver, and space gray finishes, and it feels a bit odd to see grown men proudly flashing their new pink iPhones at business meetings.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

Apple has totally overhauled the innards of the 6s, upgrading almost everything.

The most obvious improvements are to the iPhone 6s Plus' cameras. The rear iSight camera now captures 12MP still photos, enhanced by optical image stabilization (OIS), True Tone flash, f/2.2 aperture, etc. It is able to record 4K videos (3840 x 2160) at 30fps, and capture 8MP stills during 4K recording. The front FaceTime camera takes 5MP photos and 720p HD videos. The Retina display also serves as a selfie flash when needed.

The processor has been upgraded to the third generation 64-bit A9 chip which, Apple claims, delivers



70-percent faster CPU and 90-percent faster GPU. The M9 motion coprocessor has also been upgraded and integrated directly into the A9 chip, for better activity tracking capabilities, including having Siri always on.

For connectivity, the iPhone 6 Plus now supports 23 LTE bands, faster Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth 4.2.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

One reason why it's so hard to move out of the Apple ecosystem is that everything is so well-integrated, all you have to do is sign in with your Apple ID and—voila!—your new phone is set up exactly as you want it.

The one new thing you'll have to learn with the iPhone 6s/6s Plus is how to use the new 3D Touch Display, which has capacitive sensors that detect the pressure applied to the glass. In addition to the multi-touch tap, swipe, and pinch, 3D Touch allows you to "peek" and "pop" or perform quick actions. For instance, when you press down on the camera icon, a pop-out menu lists the following options: Take Photo, Record Slo-mo, Record Video, or Take Selfie. Other apps give you similar peek-pop-quick action choices.

The major camera upgrades mean that taking photos and videos have become much more pleasurable experiences. And with the large 128GB capacity, you can really have fun with HD-quality videos.

Battery life is about the same as its predecessor, seeing me through an 8- to 10-hour day.

VALUE ★★★★★

It goes without saying that the iPhone 6s/6s Plus are premium-priced. As usual, the telcos offer subsidized plans, but if you don't want to get locked in to a holding period, open line units are now available at authorized Apple resellers.

And, if you need to rationalize your purchase, you can simply point to all the major technological breakthroughs that Apple has packed into this latest iPhone. Everything is so much better, at about the same price as last year's model.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Operating System: iOS 9
Processor: Apple A9 chip with 64-bit architecture, embedded M9 motion coprocessor
Capacity: 16GB / 64GB / 128GB
Display: 5.5-inch Retina HD with 3D Touch, 1080x1920 pixel resolution at 401ppi, LED multi-touch with IPS technology
Connectivity: LTE, Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac with MIMO, Bluetooth v4.2, NFC
Camera: Main – 12MP, OIS, True Tone flash, 5-element lens; Front – 5MP FaceTime HD, Retina Flash
Dimensions: 158.2 x 77.9 x 7.3mm
Weight: 192g
Battery Life: Talktime up to 24h on 3G; internet up to 12h on LTE/WiFi; standby up to 16 days

What's Hot:

- Much improved cameras
- Definitely faster, snappier performance

What's Not:

- There's a bit of a learning curve on the 3D Touch.

BOTTOMLINE

If you resisted getting the iPhone 6/6 Plus last year, this s-upgrade is definitely worth the wait!

Fiio Q1

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara



Music is one of life's greatest gifts. If I had the resources, I would have Lana del Rey follow me around, singing songs appropriate to the situation at hand. Alas, I'm but a poor writer, so I have to settle for music from my mobile device. This does the job most of the time, but even with a good pair of headphones, sometimes, the sound quality available from our smartphone just isn't enough. Enter Fiio, one of the best-received budget audio brands of late. I managed to get my hands on a Fiio Q1 pocket amp/DAC to review. Here's what I heard.

DESIGN ★★★★★☆

The Q1 is a small device, about the size of some of the currently available feature phones, though thinner by a fair bit. It's got an aluminum body with plastic ends where the inputs and outputs reside, and a volume dial/on switch knob at the top. It's convex out slightly, giving it all the appearance of a flask. It fits the hand very well, and is a lot lighter than it looks. The body is a matte black with silver trim, so it will blend easily with your suite of gadgets. Flanking the volume/power knob are the bass boost switch on the right, the headphone out jack on the left, and a little power and charging indicator LED beside that. The bottom has the microUSB port for charging and Digital Audio in, with the charging cutoff switch to one side, and the gain switch and line in/line out port.

The device also comes with a few extras in the box, including two rubber bands, two silicone pads, a short male-male 3.5-3.5 audio cable, and a microUSB cable for charging—basically everything you need to stack.

HARDWARE ★★★★★☆

While it's not really something that's meant to compete with pocket DACs and amps many times its price, the Q1 does have a decent bit of hardware for its price point. With the Texas Instruments PCM5102 handling decoding, and a Maxim MAX97220 for amping, this is a great, cost-effective solution to an equally cost-effective pocket DAC/amp combo. According to users, this should be enough to drive headphones to 150 Ohms with no problem. The Q1 is powered by an internal 1400mAh battery, which is rated to provide upwards of 30 hours of use.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★☆

I had been hearing a lot about Fiio's audio devices, mostly good, so, wanting to see what all the hype was about, I decided to take the plunge with the Q1, the latest from the manufacturer, that offered great performance at an even greater price. I was looking for a bit more clarity than my devices could give with their own audio processing chips, and still be portable, so a pocket DAC/Amp was the obvious choice. I found a great deal on the Q1, picked it up, and eagerly ran back to the office for a quick listen. There is little to no setup required for the Q1. Pick it up, connect it to your device's headphone out jack, plug your headphones into the Q1, and you're off. I was listening with my Grado SR80i, an easy-to-drive pair of open headphones that on their own offer a great soundstage. With the Q1, there was quite a noticeable difference. The sound opened up noticeably, putting you right in there in the performance. The Q1 also woke the bass up quite a bit. The SR80i isn't really

known for its bass performance, but even with bass boost off, there was quite a marked improvement. The heavy bass sounds were also tighter, and much more enjoyable to listen to. I'm not too fond of bass-heavy audio, so I found that turning it on was just a little too much, getting slightly in the way of the mids I work so hard to chase. It also tames the higher mids present on some brighter cans, making it a little less tiring on the ears.

Vocals come out beautifully, and very clean. The Q1 is also really quiet. With a pair of Jabra Evolve 80s that offer great isolation on their own, the Q1 is, as far as I can tell, completely free of any buzzing on its own. With no music playing, it's just peaceful, black silence, which is remarkable for a device such as this. It's not mind-blowing in its performance, but it's way more than I expected from a device at this price point.

Another thing that really makes the Q1 shine, particularly for the price of admission, is the ability to accept a digital source via microUSB. This was the main feature that had me sold on the Q1, as I intended to use it with a smartphone (though it should also work with your desktop/laptop as an external soundcard). Paired with my LG G3, a microUSB to microUSB cable, and some nice lossless music, you can skip your device's internal audio hardware, and leave the decoding and amping up to the Q1. Since it's a dedicated device, it's almost certainly going to do a better job than the tiny chip on your mobile device, plus eliminate the double amping that would happen if you plugged the Q1 into the audio jack of your music player. If your smartphone gives you a slight buzz, or interference from the jack, this is the answer you've been waiting for. The clean digital signal can be fed to the Q1's own amp, then to your headphones via the jack at the top of the device, or you can skip that and just use the Q1 as a DAC and feed an analog signal out the bottom jack, for another standalone amp, if you so choose. Just be warned that not all devices are supported, so make sure your device can do digital out via a USB port if this is what you're after.

VALUE ★★★★★☆

I had been eyeing a pocket amp for some time now, if only to better reach the performance of my favorite headphones. Most of the options were just a little too steep for a device I didn't absolutely need, and the less expensive alternatives seemed like they didn't do enough of what I was looking for. This is a great balance of performance and cost. While it's not the absolute best pocket amp you're going to find, it's worlds better than the price point would suggest. The fact that it's both a DAC and pocket Amp just makes the price of admission (less than PHP 4,000) all that much more worth it.



SPECIFICATIONS:

Weight: 100g
Dimensions: 97 x 56 x 13.1mm
Audio Input: Micro USB/3.5 mm Jack
Headphone output: 3.5 mm stereo jack
Bass Adjustment: Yes
Recommended Headphone Impedance: 16~150 Ω
Battery Capacity: 1400mAh
Frequency Response: 20 Hz~20 kHz
SNR: ≥107 dB
Input Sensitivity: 4.3 V (GAIN=L), 1.5 V (GAIN=H)
Crosstalk: >75dB(1 kHz)
Gain: AUX IN: -7dB/4.5dB
USB IN: -3.5dB/8dB
Bass Adjustment Range: 0/5dB

What's Hot:

- Great value
- Both a DAC and amp
- Great build

What's Not:

- There are better options there (but not at this price)
- Switch labels are hard to see

BOTTOMLINE

If you're looking to get more from your headphones, but don't want to go overboard just yet, this is a great place to start.



Lenovo Vibe P1

Reviewed by Mia Carisse Barrientos

Battery life has always been one of the main concerns of smartphone users. What's a feature-filled phone when it's no less than a slab of brick at the end of the day? Lenovo has a solution to that!

DESIGN ★★★★★

At first glance, you'll see that the Vibe P1 has a lot going for it. It has a pleasant-looking metal unibody design with a curved back that makes it comfortable to use and feel solid in the hand. Though quite hefty, the P1 is relatively compact.

On the left edge is a dedicated toggle for switching the device to power saving mode. This feature significantly increases the battery life of the handset when it's running low on juice. However, what you're only allowed to do, while the interface is enabled, is to call and text. Going back, you have a volume rocker and power/lock button on the right, an audio jack on the topmost part, and a micro-USB port flanked by speaker grilles. Going around the front, you'll be greeted by a 5.5-inch display, 5MP camera, and capacitive keys with a physical home button in the middle. The home button also doubles as a finger print scanner that works quite well; you just have to tap on the button several times until it registers your fingerprint and you can utilize it almost immediately.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

This mid-ranger flaunts a 5.5-inch IPS LCD display with a Full HD 1080 x 1920 resolution that produces pretty good images. You could expect punchy colors, sharpness, and just enough brightness. You could also tinker with the settings a bit more to enhance its display. It is also protected by Corning Gorilla Glass 3, so going on with your usual activities while it moves and flips in the bag, along with rough and pointy objects, shouldn't be a bother.

On the inside you have an octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 615 processor, clocked at 1.5 GHz, backed by the Adreno 405 GPU and 2 GB of RAM for all your processing need—quite a deal for a midrange phone. With these under the hood,

the Vibe P1 performs great even when multitasking. It handles graphics-intensive games quite well and is still responsive and snappy to navigate right after.

On the memory spectrum, Lenovo serves you with 32GB of onboard storage which is expandable via microSD card up to 128 GB. It comes with dual-SIM capabilities, which can be accessed by removing the top cap off the device. As for connectivity options, you have the standards, such as NFC, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and 4G LTE support. There's also a USB OTG adapter in the package for more versatility.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

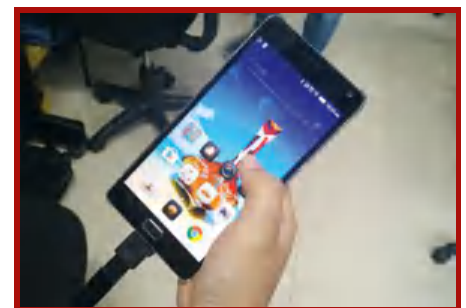
Like most Lenovo smartphone available in the market, the Vibe P1 also runs Android 5.1.1 Lollipop overlaid with Lenovo's custom UI on top which is quite uncomplicated and boasts Lenovo-native extra features.

I've always admired the camera integrations of Lenovo smartphones. Not only do they offer smooth camera app options, they also produce fairly impressive images and videos. And the Vibe P1's dual shutters are no exception.

There's so much more left to be liked on this smartphone, but what takes the cake is its massive 5000mAh battery. Yes, you could always go with a powerbank, but its added weight and bulk are to be frowned upon. Though non-removable, the promise of an excellent battery life more than makes up for it what with our incessant use of data and apps for almost anything. Also, it has a rocket charge feature for when you need a quick top up.

VALUE ★★★★★

For only PHP 14,999 you've got a power-packed device in the Lenovo Vibe P1. It's a simple yet feature-rich device that won't mind the drain of energy thanks to its 5000mAh battery.



SPECIFICATIONS:

Dimensions: 152.9 x 75.6 x 9.9mm
Weight: 189g
SIM: Dual nano-SIM slots
Display: 5.5-inch IPS capacitive touchscreen with 1080x1920 resolution
OS: Android 5.1.1 Lollipop
Processor: Qualcomm Snapdragon 615 octa-core 1.5GHz
GPU: Adreno 405
Memory: 2GB RAM, 32GB ROM expandable via micro-SD slot
Cameras: 13MP rear, 5MP front
Battery: 5000mAh non-removable

What's Hot:

- Very huge battery capacity
- Snappy

What's Not:

- Bulky

BOTTOMLINE

5000mAh battery, plus lots high-end features in a mid-range package, what more could you ask?

THIS YEAR IN TECH: SOFTWARE

Words by Ren Alcantara

The future is here, though you might not know it. While flying cars, robot servants, and virtual reality aren't quite the same as we predicted for ourselves, we're able to do so much more than we could have imagined just two decades ago. Devices have gotten smaller, exponentially smarter, and more ubiquitous, yet we act like they're no big deal.

Behind every smartphone, tablet, smartwatch, computer, and now car is the software that makes all of that possible. 2015 has been a great year for tech, and software has made all of it possible. Here's a look at what this year has brought in the world of software.

MICROSOFT WINDOWS 10

The last operating system, as far as Windows is concerned, Windows 10 has taken the love-it-or-hate-it Windows 8 and made it even better. With just one version for desktop/laptop, tablet, and mobile, the new OS brings everything into a single unified ecosystem. This theoretically means smoother transitions when moving from one Windows 10 device to another. This means consistent applications, easier coding, and a more consistent experience overall. Rolled out in stages starting the third quarter of this year, the update remains free for all legitimate users of Windows 7/8.1 for a whole year from launch. Since the first users received the update, response seems to be generally positive. Windows 10 phones are slowly starting to hit the market now, with more and more manufacturers expected to join the party shortly. One of the main draws of the OS, particularly for mobile, is that with a dock or appropriate wireless hardware, one can connect a monitor, keyboard, and mouse to the phone and use it as a desktop, thanks to the Continuum feature. Whether this is just the push Microsoft is looking for to get back on top remains to be seen, but it seems to be a very good step in the right direction.



GOOGLE APPS

Google has been getting busier and busier with each update to its Android operating system. With a refocusing of the business, more acquisitions, and a continuous stream of devices hitting the market, the big G is at a great place right now. They still emphasize the importance of the mobile ecosystem as the means to reach the world's unconnected. To further enhance the experience brought by Android Marshmallow, they've spent a lot of time honing the apps surrounding the ecosystem, with some really powerful Machine Learning wizardry.



NOW ON TAP

Now on Tap brings the extremely useful Google Now to all your apps. For example, if you were to receive an email from a friend inviting you to watch a particular movie at a particular mall, you could call up Google Now, which would then give you the details on the film, such as ratings, cast, and run times, the location of the mall with a handy map and maybe traffic information, and even offer to make you a calendar entry so you don't forget. Google has likewise beefed up Photos. Should you ever want to find all your photos of lakes, all you have to do is launch the Google Photos app, and type "Lakes" in the search bar. Google will then bring up all the photos of lakes you ever took and backed up in Photos. You won't even need to have tagged them previously. Want to see all your pictures of your girlfriend from your trip to El Nido? Just type her name and modify the search with "in El Nido," and let Google do the rest. It's both amazing and incredibly useful, particularly if you're the kind of shutterbug that just dumps everything to be searched through later. Google has also powered-up Translate with Machine Learning code, which gives it a much better success rate than previously achieved. (Oh, and all this works on the competition's devices as well.)





iOS 9

Not to be outdone in the mobile phone space, Apple released the 9th iteration of their mobile operating system this year. iOS 9 not only packs optimizations that make the most of the hardware in the iPhone (which is why iPhones stack up beautifully against more powerful devices), it also has a few new tricks up its sleeve.

Two-fingered dragging on the keyboard now moves the text cursor like one would use a trackpad on a laptop, making editing text easier by several magnitudes. A shortcut bar has also been added for easy access to commonly used edit functions. Hitting the Shift key also reflects upper- or lowercase letters on the keyboard, as the case may be. A new News app now brings the latest info from leading news sources, so users can remain up-to-date, and the stock Notes app has been updated to include more tools such as doodling, adding links, and including map locations. Multitasking has also been improved, allowing users to slide over an app from the side, see two apps at a time in split-screen view, and do picture-in-picture Facetime calls. You also get a better, smarter Siri, greater support for Passbook (now renamed Wallet) and 3D Touch for the iPhone 6s and 6s Plus, which gives users more options for interacting with menus and links that's both intuitive and useful.



OS X

OS X El Capitan arrived this year as well. Similar to the iOS update that gives additional functionality to the devices, the desktop version of Apple's OS also saw some significant changes. Multitasking was given more attention, with OS X getting the same split-screen functionality we see in iOS 9. You can easily have two apps occupy the screen, without having to bother with clicking, dragging, and resizing to get a perfect fit. Mission Control has also been streamlined, allowing users to easily see everything you have open on your Mac with a single swipe. You can also better organize open windows by dragging them to the top of your screen to move them to a different desktop space. Improvements to Spotlight have been included, allowing it to now give you more info including updates to sports, stocks, videos, and even transit info for getting around. Notes got a similar update as iOS, with support for the attachment of links, photos, videos, and map locations. Photos has been given the ability to work with third-party editing software, better organization, and performance upgrades.

2015 has been a good year to be in tech. Things are progressing at a much faster rate, and we've never had devices that are more useful, friendly, and intuitive, and that's all thanks to software.



THIS YEAR IN TECH: DESKTOP COMPUTING

Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo

Tim Cook, Apple's head honcho, this month said in an exclusive interview with *The Telegraph*, "I think if you're looking at a PC, why would you buy a PC anymore? No really, why would you buy one?" It's a sentiment that has been often repeated over the last two decades—that the Personal Computer will be neutered by advancements in mobile computing technology. Totally not the case, though. Developments in the hardware realm are still chugging along with no signs of slowing down. Catch up on the year's highlight below and see for yourself why the PC's here to stay.

STEAM MACHINES: LIGHTWEIGHT BUILD, HEAVYWEIGHT PUNCH

Valve, the developer of both the Steam platform and developer of many, many video games, has partnered up with renowned vendors such as Alienware, Digital Storm, Zotac, and Gigabyte in order to bring the PC experience to the living room. Yes, that means you don't have to carry your tower, clear space for it on the TV rack, and run a long HDMI cable just to enjoy the 60fps experience.

Obviously, the Steam Machine is a direct competitor to Sony's Playstation and Microsoft's Xbox. What can it boast of then? PC Master Race's Lord and Savior, and Valve managing director Gabe "GabeN" Newell was quoted as saying "So the same price point as today, except you get better performance and you're connected to everything you like about the PC and the Internet."

Case in point, the Steam Machines start at a base Intel Core i3 processor, custom Nvidia graphics card (about the same performance as the 860m), 500GB of storage, and 4GB of RAM; while the high-end models debut with up to an i7 processor, GTX 750 Ti all the way up to a Titan-Z, 32GB of DDR3 RAM, 8TB HDD, and a 1TB SSD. In contrast, the PS4 and Xbox One both work with an octa-core AMD CPU, AMD Radeon graphics processor, 8GB of RAM, and 500GB of storage.

At the same price point, the consoles come out on top thanks to their CPU and RAM specs. But in

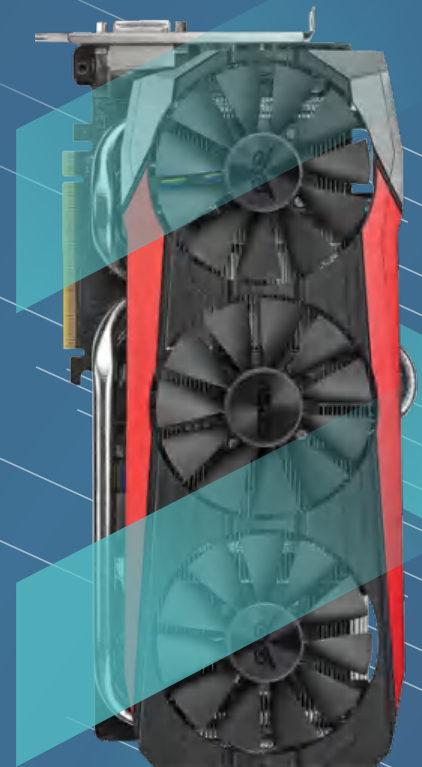


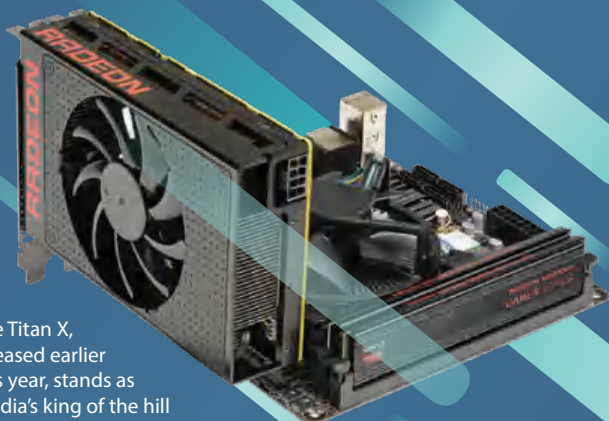
real-world tests, the entry-level Steam Machines can easily keep up with, and in some cases best, their competitors. Steam Machines also don't have to deal with the subscription-based shenanigans of their potato third cousins twice removed. Not to mention they allow you to plop down on the couch and do things you'd regularly need a desktop or laptop for.

POWERFUL, ENERGY-EFFICIENT GRAPHICS CARDS

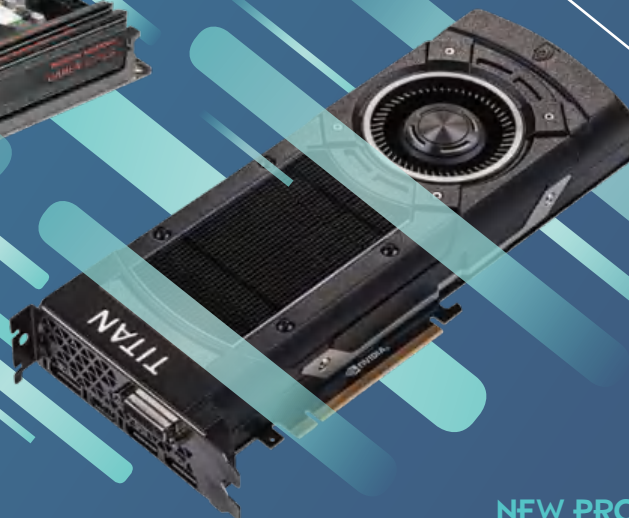
Just like with cars, home appliances, and generally anything that runs off fossil fuel and its derivatives, desktop graphics cards have been pushing for more power efficiency over the last two years. The impressive thing is that not only does it mean top-tier GPUs are getting less and less expensive to run, it also means that bang for the buck performance trickles down faster to the entry-level market.

On one side of this equation is Nvidia, whose Maxwell architecture offers two times the performance per watt of its Kepler predecessor. Maxwell actually made its debut last year aboard the low-end GTX 750 Ti, showing the world that you don't need to drop a truckload of cash for solid performance. Of course, this card's Maxwell iteration is gimped significantly.





The Titan X, released earlier this year, stands as Nvidia's king of the hill GPU thanks to its souped up, fully unlocked potential. If the price tag on that beast is too steep, there's still the GTX 950, 960, and 980 Ti



On the other side of the fence is AMD's long overdue Fiji GPU upgrade. Present on the Fury, Fury X, and R9 Nano, Fiji is the company's attempt at regaining the enthusiast market which has long been dominated by the green team. In terms of efficiency, it's a huge step over AMD's power-hungry former flagships, though it has ways to go before being at par with its competitor. It also debuted the new High Bandwidth Memory technology allowing it to buffer more data in less time.

MONITORS GALORE

At first glance, monitors aren't really the most exciting piece of PC hardware out there. As long as it works and doesn't artifact, there's really no reason to fuss about it.

At least that's what I thought until I reviewed my first proper monitor. Now, I can't unsee the difference between a well-put display and a cheap panel. That's why I'm quite thrilled by the sudden influx of monitors this year, ranging from professional ones with life-like color accuracy and gaming-oriented ones with silky smooth refresh rates. The innovations also enabled manufacturers to claim that they're legitimately the first one to debut a new tech or feature.

Rising up above the competition are the Acer XB280HK, a 4K 3840 x 2160 monitor with a TN panel, 60Hz refresh rate, and 1ms response time; the AOC U3477PQU, a 34-inch 3440 x 1440 21:9 ultrawide monitor with an IPS panel, maximum 60Hz refresh, and 5ms response time; and the Asus ROG Swift PG279Q, with its WQHD 2560 x 1440 display with an IPS panel, 165Hz max refresh rate, and decent 4ms response time.

Lest I forget, G-Sync and FreeSync monitors also entered the market this year for Nvidia and AMD users, respectively. These kinds of displays synchronize their refresh rates to a graphics card's current output, ensuring that what you're seeing remains smooth even as your frame rate fluctuates.



NEW PROCESSORS

We already talked about Intel's brand-spanking-new Skylake series processors in last month's *CoverStory* so we won't dive into that this time. Just know that while out of the box performance is nothing too special, this card has tons of overclocking headroom for enthusiasts to toy around with.

Meanwhile, AMD is continuing to focus their efforts on the Accelerated Processing Unit (APU) technology, developing them for capable but low power rigs, laptops, and even for the embedded segment with point-of-sale, networking, and vertical systems. These also boast very capable integrated graphics performance for cheap, making them a top choice for budget builders.

This year's been good for PC junkies. 2016 promises to be even better as Nvidia's Pascal, AMD's Arctic Islands, Intel's Skylake-S and Cannonlake, and a whole myriad of other improvements are already in the pipeline. It's a real blessing to enthusiasts, but a real curse on the wallet.



THIS YEAR IN TECH: SMARTPHONES

Words by Mia Carisse Barrientos

Since the prototype of the first smartphone was introduced in 1992, manufacturers have been spending plenty of time in their labs to spawn one astounding innovation after another, each of which paved the way to making the smartphone what it truly is meant to be: smart. Fast forward to 2015, where we now have authentic smart devices we can conveniently carry in our pockets.

Every year we see new, brilliant smartphone releases, but the smartphone race is still far from the finish line. One of the most successful consumer devices, smartphone sales have increased significantly despite majority of the general populace already owning at least one. Users upgrade to newer models for various reasons. One is because of early market depreciation: the phones in their pockets will soon become irrelevant when a new model, with better specs, comes out. This is just one of the factors that drives the market further given its competitive nature.

We witnessed a few awesome new technologies from high-end smartphones launched this year-- technologies that should serve as a guide for you to know if it's time for an upgrade.

DESIGN: PREMIUM AND STURDY

From the moment we open our eyes to the last blink of our eyes at night, we check on our phones for updates all the time. Now considerably coming as a close second to our family, the smartphone has become humanity's most constant companion. That alone is enough to want a capable and aesthetically pleasing handset on hand. In truth, nobody wants to carry an ugly slab of tech around.

In the course of time, smartphones have evolved from resembling bricks to something good as works of art. This year, it has been about ergonomics, what would instantly draw attention, premium-feel, and rigidity. Most of the higher-end smartphones available today sport bodies with metal frames. This makes for a more solid build: a phone that feels great in the hand and is nice to look at. In terms of protection, phones overlaid with the damage-resistant Corning Gorilla Glass 4 have also made their way into the market such as the Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge+ and Asus Zenfone 2 Laser. The glass is claimed to handle drops two times better than competitive glass designs.

IP66-rated smartphones and above are also in, such as the new Sony Xperia phones. This means your phone can survive a dunk in the pool, the pouring rain, being buried in the sand, and other things that would render a normal smartphone useless.



DISPLAYS: BETTER AND LARGER

Apart from sporting displays with improved protection, flagship smartphones of today have also grown larger. And by larger, we mean most top-tier and mid-range phones now feature displays that measure at least five inches on the diagonal. This is an improvement that makes sense, since we now no longer have to squint to see the picture or strain our eyes by staring at a tiny display for too long. The mere fact that Apple, having been previously against it, has joined the big-screen game with the 6s Plus says quite a lot.

Pair a satisfyingly large display with full HD resolution and you've got a combination that is hard to resist. That's what you get with the beauty that is the LG G4, a 5.5-inch Quad HD display with a whopping 2560x1440 pixel resolution immersing you into a terrific viewing experience.

While curved displays have already established their place in the home entertainment space, curved screens on mobile devices are still moving around, finding a place to plant their feet. However, we've seen quite a success in the warm response to Samsung's Galaxy S6 Edge, which is a good sign for curved (and soon bendable) displays.



HARDWARE: POCKET PCS

Almost all of the flagship models released in 2013 to present year can handle complex 3D titles without a hitch and deal with big video files effortlessly, making them easy choices for intrepid gamers and avid multimedia consumers. This excellence in performance and computing power can be credited to today's phones well-endowed innards. A given in this category are octa-core chipsets with fast clock speeds and RAM that goes up as high as 4GB; some even approach the performance of your average PC.

The new Snapdragon 810 also level things up further with its advanced computing abilities that'll boost any smartphone's performance even more. With X10 LTE, phones integrated with the 810 supports download speeds of up to 420Mbps, that is if you have a capable internet at home or at work. Some phones sporting the new Snapdragon 810 chipset are the Microsoft Lumia 950 XL, Nexus 6P, and OnePlus 2. As for the in-demand Apple product, the iPhone now has an A9 processor that is giving the competition a run for its money.

Another issue with our handy phones is audio quality. What's a stunning display paired with subpar audio? Yes, a capable speaker or headphones can fix that, but wouldn't it be nice to have a phone that produces great sound? This is where tie-ins come in. One example is Lenovo, featuring Dolby Atmos technology in some of their phones. The Lenovo A7000 was the first to incorporate this technology used in cinemas in a 5.5-inch frame. This gives the user astonishing clarity, power, and depth every time he/she presses play.

Meanwhile, with all these awesome features thrown into the loot, the battery is likely to suffer. This is why smartphones released this year have great battery life, with capacities going up to 5000mAh, and ultra-fast charging capabilities all in all making it easy for the consumers.



Other than becoming mobile gaming powerhouses, the computing power found in mobile devices allow it to become a workstation. Just pair it with a keyboard and monitor and you may resume your productiveness anywhere. This is what Microsoft aims to do with *Continuum*—to turn your phone into a full-on portable PC. Hopefully, we'll see this productivity feature come to fruition in 2016.



CAMERAS: BETTER THAN YOUR AVERAGE POINT-AND-SHOOT

With phoneography and the selfie becoming more than just a passing trend, we've seen smartphones battle it out in the camera department this year. Phones coming out are expected to have at least an image sensor size of 13MP for the rear camera and 5MP for its front-facing shooter. On top of that, smartphone cameras are bundled and sprinkled with various technologies such as the ability to save pictures in RAW, optical image stabilization, HDR, Tri-Color flash, wide-angled, and more for capturing stunning photos.

Also a trend in smartphone cameras now is to have either dual front or rear shooters. This basically improves the camera's performance in low-light areas by adding extra depth into the photo through the second camera.

OTHER FEATURES

Manufacturers put every effort into making their flagship devices, and it wouldn't be complete without other thingamajigs that most of the time get overlooked. Fingerprint scanners, though sometimes quite hard to operate are still in. NFC support is slowly creeping into mid-tier and lower-end models. We also witnessed the release of the newest OS versions—iOS 9, Android Lollipop, and Windows 10—that rolled out improvements and new features to the phones they support. LTE is also now made available even in affordably-priced phones now with 5G slowly making its way in the mainstream.

In a nutshell, phones this year feature better looks, powerful performance, superior photography capabilities, and faster connectivity, all contributing to an overall user experience that will put a smile on the users' faces.



ALL HAIL ROYALTY

Words by Chris Noel hidalgo

The all-new performance wagon Subaru Levorg and *Miss Universe Philippines 2015* Pia Wurtzbach have more than a few things in common: a captivating stare, curves in all the right places, head-turning looks, regal flair, and awe-inspiring presence. We can hodgepodge more adjectives for you, but all you really need to know is that they both made our jaws drop. Hard. If you don't mind picking yours up off the floor too, then flip the page and prepare to be stunned.



Confidence in Motion. This statement reflects Subaru's drive to keep on innovating their craft. Indeed, the brand has earned their customers' confidence with vehicles that are utilitarian, comfortable, and reliable, in addition to being beautiful and truly powerful. Not one to be content, Subaru continues to take into account customer feedback and expectation in engineering their products.

With over 50 years of experience, the company has remained at the forefront of the automotive industry. More than mere tools for

Gown by **Haydee Garcia**



transport, Subaru believes that vehicles should give peace of mind and enjoyment to drivers, passengers, and pedestrians—a philosophy ingrained in the features and technologies aboard each car that they manufacture.

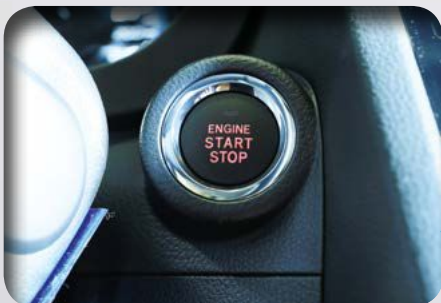
Locally, the brand operates through Motor Image Pilipinas, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Tan Chong International Limited.



SUBARU

Push-Start Button

As long as the wireless key fob's nearby, a push of a button is all it takes for the Levorg to come to life.



Steering Wheel-Mounted SI and Cruise Controls

Easily transition between the powerful Sports mode and environment-friendly Intelligent driving mode with controls right at the steering wheel.



Multi-Touch Infotainment System

The touch-enabled infotainment system provides easy access to your smartphone's multimedia and apps.



Multi-Function Steering Wheel

Audio controls and hands-free phone connectivity are present right on the steering wheel, allowing drivers to keep their eyes on the road.



LUXURIOUS INTERIOR

Inside, the Levorg treats its passengers like royalty. Creature comforts abound for both front and rear patrons, and the cabin is made from the finest materials that complete the premium experience.



EXQUISITE EXTERIOR

The Subaru Levorg is gorgeous no matter which way you look at it. With a prominent bonnet scoop complemented by the sophisticated front fascia and eye-catching daytime running lights, the Levorg is guaranteed to turn heads whether on busy city streets or scenic rural highways.



Hawkeye Headlamps

Designed after the piercing gaze of one of nature's fiercest hunters, the bright LED headlamps gives you the illumination you need in dimly lit environments.



Hood Scoop

A light aluminum hood scoop feeds air to the Levorg's engine intercooler, helping it run at the optimal performance temperature.

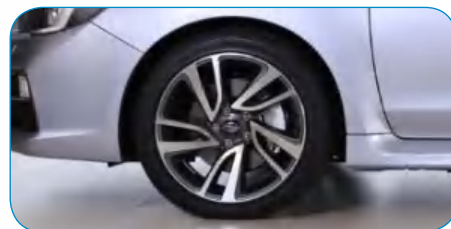
LED Rear Combination Lamp

LED tail and stop lamps, rear fog lamps, turn lamps, and reverse lamps on the rear allow for both style and greater visibility.



18-inch Aluminum Alloy Wheels

This sleek set of wheels provide ample ground clearance and additional style points to the already dashing exterior aesthetic.





A Glimpse into a *Beauty Queen's Mind*

Interview by Chris Noel Hidalgo

Even though she's very busy prepping for the world's most prestigious catwalk, we were lucky enough to get Pia Wurtzbach on the cover of this year's ending salvo. It's only fitting that *Gadgets Magazine's* 2015 wrap-up is accompanied by one of the country's foremost beauty queens during undoubtedly one of the biggest moments of her life—the Miss Universe 2015 pageant.

Obviously, to win the Miss Universe crown, is Pia's top item on her Christmas wish list. She says the country's support, as well as her fans' adoration on social media, really mean a lot to her and have motivated her to train harder for the competition. She's devoted herself 24/7 to toning her physique, health, as well as mind by keeping up with news around the world.

The New Year, with all its bells, whistles, and resolutions, is a ritual for her, saying "I look forward to that. I make a list every year." She hopes that after the pageant, she'd be able to live a normal life away from the busy schedule of pageantry.

Besides getting more time to hang out with her friends, Pia's also making it a point to travel more this 2016. "Since I was so busy with my duty as Miss Universe-Philippines, I have not been able to go around. Though I've been able to go around the country which is great because I've been to some places I've never even been before."

Asked on how she manages to keep up with her resolutions, Pia answered "Don't make it so overwhelming. Make it realistic. Don't do 10 or 20 *na mabibigat* like crash dieting or quitting smoking cold turkey."

Even Pia herself admits that it took years for her to get to where she is now. "There's no such thing as an overnight transformation." If you're looking to get a headstart on your career, skills, self-development, and even love life, the New Year's as good a time as any. With hard work and a little elbow grease, who knows? You may end up in the Miss Universe equivalent of your chosen field.





Art Director **Benedict Asal**
Photography **Dookie Ducay**
Stylist **Jonah Mendoza**
Assisted by **Theresa Eloriaga**
Make up Artist **Gery Penasa**
for MAC Cosmetics
Hair Stylist **Chino Maniquiz**
using Lynelle Hair
Nail Artist **Lei Mei**

MOTORCYCLES FOR EMERGENCY RESCUE AND RELIEF OPERATIONS

In its 2015 Asia Pacific Disaster Report: Disasters Without Borders, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) noted that the Philippines ranks first in Asia and third in the world among countries with the highest risk to disasters. UNESCAP defines risk as the combination of exposure and susceptibility of the country to disasters, and coping and adaptive capacity of the government and medical services. Capacity development and resilience building must not only be limited to national agencies, but it must permeate all sectors, the report added.



MDPPA

MOTORCYCLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ASSOCIATION

In the Philippines, a major challenge in the aftermath of calamities such as earthquake, typhoon, volcano eruption, or fire, is how prompt relief, rescue, and retrieval operations can be implemented in the affected areas as these usually become inaccessible due to rough terrains, and narrow, destroyed or blocked roads.

Among the land-based disaster quick response units, motorcycles were found to be particularly effective and reliable. During the July 30 metro-wide earthquake drill spearheaded by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) which raised awareness on what people should do if the "Big One"—a major earthquake predicted to be up to 7.2 magnitude-strong—would hit Metro Manila and nearby provinces, a group of motorcycle riders simulated transporting the injured, easily navigating through piles of rubbles.

"When Nepal was hit by two major earthquakes within three weeks of each other, rescue and retrieval efforts were hampered by the rough terrain and landslides. We realized that, for the rescue and relief operations to be successful, response should be quick and reliable," said Rodel Pablo, president of the Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association (MDPPA).

"Motorcycles can provide a flexible and efficient transport mechanism for first-line relief workers and for the delivery of medical aid and supplies," he added.

While the optimum transport capacity of motorcycles is limited to the rider and back rider, Pablo asserted that motorcycles can be utilized in other ways. "When communication in disaster-stricken areas proves to be difficult due to damaged infrastructure, motorcycles can initiate a makeshift communication mechanism," Pablo said.

He particularly noted MDPPA's experience during Super Typhoon Yolanda last November 2013. "Twenty-eight riders from the rider clubs of MDPPA experienced the ravage of Yolanda during our Motorcycle Caravan for Road Safety in Tacloban City. From the first moments of the catastrophe to the aftermath and recovery, the riders helped in the disaster management by setting up communication lines for media outlets," he shared.

MDPPA, the leading organization of motorcycle manufacturers in the Philippines, consists of motorcycle manufacturers Honda Philippines Inc., Kawasaki Motors Philippines Corporation, Suzuki Philippines Inc., Yamaha Motor Philippines Inc., and Kymco Philippines, Inc. The organization regularly conducts motorcycle caravans for road safety.



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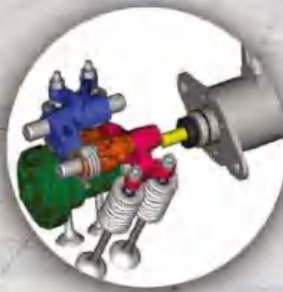
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This feeling of linear acceleration gives good fuel economy in different speed ranges that allows a rider to get the most of every ride.

Overall length/width/height	1,955 mm × 740 mm × 1,115 mm
Wheelbase	1,350 mm
Min. ground clearance	135 mm
Seat height	765 mm
Weight (with oil and a full fuel tank)	127 kg
Fuel tank capacity	6.6L
Engine type	4-stroke, Liquid-cooled, SOHC, 4-valve
Cylinder arrangement	Single cylinder
Displacement	155.1 cm ³
Bore × stroke	58 mm × 58.7 mm
Compression ratio	10.5:1
Max. output	11.1 kW / 8,000 r/min
Max. torque	14.4 N·m / 6,000 r/min
Starter	Electric
Lubrication	Force-feed lubrication, wet sump
Engine oil volume	1.0 L
Fuel supply system	Fuel injection
Clutch type	Dry, centrifugal, shoe
Transmission type	V-belt automatic
Gear ratios	2.50–0.78
Suspensions (front/rear)	Telescopic / Unit swing
Caster/Trail	26° / 92 mm
Tire size (front/rear)	110/70-13 MC 48P / 130/70-13MC/63P (both tubeless)
Brakes (front/rear)	Single Disk Brake (ABS) / Single Disk Brake (ABS)
Headlight	12V 6.4/6.0W×1 (LED)
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Battery	YT27V

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Source: The Good Gear Guide for Motorcycle & Scooter Riders.

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2015 Chevrolet Trailblazer 2.8 6AT 4X2 LTX

Reviewed by Mika Fernandez-David | Photos by Nicolo David



The Chevrolet Trailblazer is in its mid-cycle of production. Body-wise, nothing has changed much, but they did amp up the tech and amenities. Read on if you're looking for more than just a people mover.

DESIGN ★★★★★

The Trailblazer measures (L x W x H) 4,878 x 1,902 x 1,848mm, has a ground clearance of 230mm, a wheel base of 3,096mm, and a outstanding 800mm water wading capability.

It features a distinctively Chevy front fascia, with the brand's signature bow tie nestled in between dual mesh grilles. It has prominent lines on its hood and sides, although they were a bit muted by the dark color (black sapphire) of the test unit, which contrasts nicely with the chrome accents. The particular model we tested didn't come with the flashy

daytime running lamps that the top tier variant has, but to be honest, we didn't really miss that feature that much.

The interior of the Trailblazer is two-toned, composed of light-colored leather and molded plastics. The instrument panel features Camaro-inspired blue LED lit gauges that are easy on the eyes and, in a glance, provides the driver vital information about the vehicle.

New to this variant is the Android Infotainment System that comes pre-installed with useful apps like *Waze*, *Spotify*, *Tune-in*, *G Services*, *Stitcher*, and the *MMDA* app, aside from the

usual audio functions and connectivity. The Trailblazer now also has a Wi-Fi hotspot function, and comes with free 4G mobile internet connectivity from Globe Tattoo for a full year.

With its 2-3-2 configuration, the Trailblazer sits 7 adults comfortably, with a bit of cargo space in the rear. It's fitted with three-row tumble and fold-flat seating that allows for various configurations depending on the passenger and cargo space requirement. Second row seats fold 40/60 for easy access to the front-facing third row, while the third row folds 50/50. Rear passengers are guaranteed a comfortable ride



What's Hot:

- Best in class power and torque
- 800mm wading depth comes handy

What's Not:

- A bit cumbersome in the city



with their own A/C controls with vents up to the third row.

The Trailblazer comes in seven colors: black sapphire; oceanic blue; auburn brown; satin steel grey; sizzled red; switchblade silver; and summit white.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

All the A/T variants of the Chevrolet Trailblazer are powered by Chevy's updated 2.8L, 4-cylinder, 16 valve DOHC Duramax diesel engine that produces 203PS @ 3600RPM and a maximum 500Nm of torque @ 2000RPM. The powerful engine is paired with a six speed automatic transmission with Active Select.

The Trailblazer sits on an 8-crossmember ladder chassis configuration, with front suspension that is fitted with independent short long arms, and rears taken care of by five-link with coil springs. This combination produces a comfortable stable ride, with passenger car-like handling. Stopping power is taken care of by dual piston calipers and vented discs in front, and single piston calipers and solid disc brakes in the rear. The model we drove came

with 265/60R18 tires, with 6-spoke alloy wheels with a royal silver finish.

Safety features for this mid-tier variant include ABS with EBD, driver and passenger airbags, 2-sensor rear parking assist sensors, a tire pressure monitoring system, remote lock control, an immobilizer, electrical theft deterrent, seat belt warning alarm, and a rear window defogger. A dash camera with 32GB of memory is now also standard equipment.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

With so much power under the hood, the Trailblazer would be a great vehicle to hitch a

trailer to. Whether you are transporting bikes, jet skis, or even a small speedboat, the Trailblazer will definitely not disappoint, with its 3-ton towing capacity. While it comfortably sits seven passengers, if your brood travels with lots of gear (like mine does), it is more realistic to seat just five, with the extra row used to expand the limited boot space.

Answering the need for backup monitors, new to the variant is the digital-display in the left portion of the rearview mirror. Now while this provides invaluable input for the driver, I find the glare from the display a bit distracting and counter productive most especially at night when the glare is experienced the most. Like others in the mid-size category segment, it's a bit of a chore to fit in the tight streets of the metro, but all is forgiven when you get to the open highways.

VALUE / PRICE ★★★★★

The 2015 Chevrolet Trailblazer 2.8 6AT 4X2 LTX we tested is priced at PHP 1,588,888, but prices start at PHP 1,298,888 for the entry level, and tops out at PHP 1,788,888 for the top tier 2.8L 6AT 4x4 LTZ SE.



BOTTOMLINE :

If muscle power is high on your list of "must haves" for a midsize SUV, then the Trailblazer is the vehicle for you.

All eyes on the new Ford Focus

Words by Ren Alcantara

Ford has given the Focus a facelift, with a bolder, more sophisticated look, updated the engine, and made the car smarter to give you a driving experience the likes of which you haven't had before. At the launch last month, Ford gave members of the press a chance to view the new Focus. All were able to see and experience the vehicle, in both the hatch and sedan configurations, and varying levels of trim.



The new Focus has been given a more sophisticated, dynamic look. It stands both lower and wider, with a hood that sweeps elegantly to Ford's signature trapezoidal grille giving the car a stronger, more aggressive presence on the road.

The slim headlamps bring together the bold front end, with the clean, flowing lines of the sides, all the way up to the rear window. Thinner tail lights, a new tailgate arrangement, and a sculpted rear spoiler all come together to form a car that's still distinctly a Focus, but definitely brand-new.

The interior of the new Focus has likewise been revamped, taking into consideration the demands of consumers over the previous version.

The controls are now simpler, more intuitive, and more modern, with fewer controls to keep track of. A reorganized instrument panel and simple car controls allow the driver to remain focused on driving, rather than worry about accessing the vehicle's numerous features. Sound-insulating windshield glass, thicker side-window glass, carpets, and door trim insulation make for a vehicle that is perfectly isolated from outside noise, for greater rider comfort.

Making the driving experience even more pleasant is cutting-edge technology that allows the Focus to help the driver do more, with much less effort. The new Focus comes with Enhanced Active Park Assist, which adds Perpendicular Park Assist to the previously available Parallel Park Assist. These features help the driver by scanning for a suitable parking slot and parking the vehicle, eliminating the guesswork often necessary for the perfect parking job. All the driver has to do is control the shifting, braking, and acceleration. The system works via two sensors on the car, which also come into play when the driver activated Park-out assist, allowing the driver to get out of even the tightest parking spots.

The Active City Stop system helps mitigate low-speed collisions through the use of a windshield-mounted sensor that detects possible collisions, pre-loading the brakes should an obstacle appear, or the car ahead slow down abruptly. Active up to 50km/h, the system decreases engine torque, and applies the brakes to prevent a collision. The new Focus also comes with the Ford My Key that can be programmed to limit the car's maximum speed, give an

earlier "low fuel" warning, lowering the volume of the in-car entertainment system, or disable the car completely, should the seatbelt come unfastened.

The heart of the new Focus is a 1.5-liter, four-cylinder EcoBoost engine, which gives 180PS of power, and 240Nm of torque—more powerful than a 2.0-liter, naturally-aspirated engine. This engine uses the EcoBoost core technologies of high-pressure, direct fuel injection, turbocharging, and Twin-Independent Variable Cam Timing to deliver optimum performance.

This revolutionary engine is mated to a new, modern, lightweight six-speed automatic transmission, all of which deliver a sporty drive, that's both fun, and fuel-efficient.

The new Focus is available four variants, at the following price points:

- 1.5L Focus GTDI EcoBoost Sport+ AT – PHP 1,278,000
- 1.5L Focus GTDI EcoBoost Titanium+ AT – PHP 1,278,000
- 1.5L Focus GTDI EcoBoost Sport AT – PHP 1,088,000
- 1.5L Focus GTDI EcoBoost Titanium AT – PHP 1,088,000



Ford Philippines Launches New Explorer Sport

Words and Photos by Mika Fernandez-David

Ford Philippines launched the newest iteration of the Explorer Sport, now loaded with more smart technology and powered by the brand's proprietary EcoBoost engine. Delivering an ideal combination of form and function, the new Explorer Sport has redefined how the industry will think about the SUV segment.

"The new Explorer Sport continues to lead the way in innovation, power and performance in a smart vehicle that you want in an SUV," said Kay Hart, managing director, Ford Philippines.

The new Explorer Sport has been updated inside and out to offer a more comfortable driving experience that complements its new rugged look.

Powered by a 3.5-liter twin-turbocharged EcoBoost V6 engine, the new Explorer Sport produces 370PS @ 5500RPM and 475Nm @ 3500RPM of torque. The engine is mated with a 6-speed SelectShift automatic transmission, and stopping power is courtesy of four-wheel discs with ABS, EBD, as well as Panic Brake Assist. For a more dynamic driving experience, it is fitted with sport-tuned suspension, with front and rear springs, struts, as well as rear dampers, and ships with P255/50 R20 tires.

Notable smart features include a front 180-degree camera with washer that eliminates blurry screens when parking; Front Park Assist to aid drivers in stressful parking situations; Smart-charging USB ports located at the front and rear sides, designed to charge devices up to two times faster than

conventional ports; and a Hands-free liftgate to easily open or close the rear door when hands are pre-occupied.

Other features include second-generation driver and front passenger airbags, side seat front-passenger knee airbags, and side curtain airbags; Blind Spot Information System (BLIS) with Cross-Traffic Alert; Perimeter Alarm; S.O.S. Post-Crash Alert System; Remote keyless entry and via key fob and entry key pad; Securilock Passive/Active Anti-Theft System (PATS); traction control; Reverse Sensing System; and Advance Trac with Roll Stability Control (RSC).

"Our EcoBoost engine is the perfect example of technology that optimizes performance. We've also made sure to keep the new Explorer Sport's adventurous personality while continuing to offer fuel efficiency without sacrificing power. We're confident that the new Explorer Sport will exceed the expectations of our customers yet again," said Hart.

The new Explorer Sport is now available in all Ford dealerships nationwide. It comes in three colors: tuxedo black, white platinum, and magnetic metallic, and can be yours to the tune of PHP 2,819,000.



CAGI names Mazda 2 and Nissan Navara as 2015 Car and Truck of the Year -

Words and Photos by Mika Fernandez-David

After months of preparations and four Testests, the Car Awards Group, Inc. (CAGI), the country's premier automotive award-giving body, has named the Mazda 2 the 2015 Car of the Year-Philippines (COTY-P) and the Nissan Navara the Truck of the Year-Philippines (TOTY-P). The announcement was made at the CAGI Gala Awards Night last November 13, 2015 held at the Fontana Hot Spring Leisure Parks & Casino in Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga.

The overall Car of the Year title was awarded to the Mazda 2 Skyactiv R 4-door, which also won the Best Subcompact Car category. It outshined all the other 65 nominees that vied for the top award, beating them for its merits in performance, aesthetics, driving experience, and price just to name a few. The last Mazda to get the award was the Mazda 6 that won in 2013 - 2014.

Meanwhile, the Nissan NP300 Navara 2.5L 4x2 EL 7AT Calibre earned the Truck of the Year - Philippines award, besting its competitors in the highly contested truck wars. The same variant topped the 4x2 Pickup category, while the all-new Ford Ranger Wildtrak 3.2L 4x4 AT took home the best 4x4 Pickup award.

As for the other winners in the car categories, the Suzuki Celerio GL 1.0L MT was named as the Basic Subcompact Car of the Year, while the Kia Forte Koup 2-door Sedan received the Best Compact Car of the Year award. The Mazda 6 Sports Wagon won the Best Midsize Car category, the Volvo S60 D4 Polestar in the Best Premium Sedan segment, and the Jaguar XE 2.0 as the Best Luxury Sedan.

This year's awards also saw a large number of crossovers and MPVs on the entry list. Top honors in the Best Subcompact Crossover SUV category went to the Nissan Juke, the Best Compact Crossover SUV to the Honda HR-V 1.8L EL CVT, while the Best Crossover SUV award was given to the Mazda CX-5 AWD Sport. But the most extravagant of them all is the Lexus NX 200t F-Sport that took home the trophy as the Best Luxury Crossover SUV of the Year. The MPV categories, on the hand, was a clean sweep by Honda who won both the Compact MPV and Luxury MPV of the Year with the Mobilio 1.5V CVT and Odyssey 2.4L EX-V Navi, respectively, while Ford took home both the 4x2 and 4x4 SUV categories with the Everest Trend 2.2L 4x2 AT, and Everest Titanium 3.2 4x4 AT variants.

The most exciting vehicles that entered the 2015 COTY-PH awards, however, were the sports and

luxury cars. The Volkswagen Golf GTI, Subaru WRX 2.0 MT, and Mazda MX-5 MT were the big winners in the Best Sports Hatch, Best Sports Sedan, and Best Sports Car categories. Then there were the big muscle cars from Ford and Lexus with the Mustang 5.0 V8 GT Premium taking the Best Premium Sports Car award and the RC-F taking the Best High Performance Sports Car. Finally, the extravagant pair of the Rolls Royce Wraith and Ferrari California T was this year's Ultra-luxury Car and Sports Cars of the Year.

Established in 2004, the Car Awards Group, Inc. is the longest-running organization of motoring journalists in the country today. Since its incorporation, the group has strived to find the best vehicles in the country through independent, and comprehensive testing. CAGI's testing and scoring process is composed of qualitative and quantitative criteria, plus other factors such as safety features and pricing compared to its competitors. The COTY-P and TOTY-P award isn't just about who is the biggest, strongest, and fastest, but who offers the most complete package.

"CAGI has completed the most thorough and critical consumer-oriented vehicle review process in the country. We tested 78 cars and trucks from the 2015 model year, involved roughly 1,500 testdrives over 4 days. To all the car manufacturers and distributors who fielded an entry in this year's COTY Awards, we highly appreciate your trust and confidence for allowing us to test and scrutinize your cars. Above all, thank you for supporting the objective of the COTY Awards to raise consumer awareness," said Robby Consunji, president of the Car Awards Group, Inc.

"On behalf of CAGI, I would like to thank all our sponsors who helped us out this season, with a special mention of our event partner, the audit firm KPMG R.G. Manabat & Company who was instrumental in refining the process and methodology of the COTY Awards. They were also the ones who tabulated the votes and conducted

an independent validation of the scores that led to this year's batch of winners. We would like to thank our event partner Fontana Hot Spring Leisure Parks and Casino for graciously hosting our Testests, as well as our gala awards night, and to our co-presenter carmudi.com.ph for their trust and support," he added.

The 2015 Car of the Year - Philippines was co-presented by Carmudi Philippines, and made possible by event partners Fontana Hot Spring Leisure Parks & Casino, and KPMG R. G. Manabat & Co., and sponsors Bose, Air Asia, HitchPro, the Manila International Auto Show, Worldbex Services International, Manila North Tollways Corporation, North Luzon Expressway, Sonax, Ultra Modular Concepts, Inc. (UMCI), Romac Group of Companies, Columbia Sportswear, SpeedLab, and LG Electronics. Media partners include BusinessMirror, BusinessWorld, Malaya Business Insight, Manila Bulletin, Philippine Daily Inquirer, and The Philippine Star.

Aside from the category winners, our valued sponsors also gave out special awards to deserving winners.

- Speedlab Tuner's Choice Award: 2015 Mazda MX-5 M/T
- Manila International Auto Show Design Award: 2015 Aston Martin V12 Vantage S
- Fontana Luxury Lifestyle Award: 2015 Rolls Royce Wraith
- CAGI Safety Award: 2015 Ford Everest Titanium 3.2L 4x4 AT
- Bose Sound Excellence Award: 2015 Mazda 6 Sports Wagon
- AirAsia Philippines Consumer Award: 2015 Suzuki Celerio GL 1.0L AT
- HitchPro Outdoor Lifestyle Award: 2015 Land Rover Discovery Sport





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Suzuki announces GSX-S1000 ABS

Suzuki has announced the availability of the GSX-S1000 ABS, the next in line for the historic GSX Series throne. With the pedigree of a high performance sports bike, Suzuki's newest motorcycle promises riders extreme power, handling, and agility akin to competition-level models.

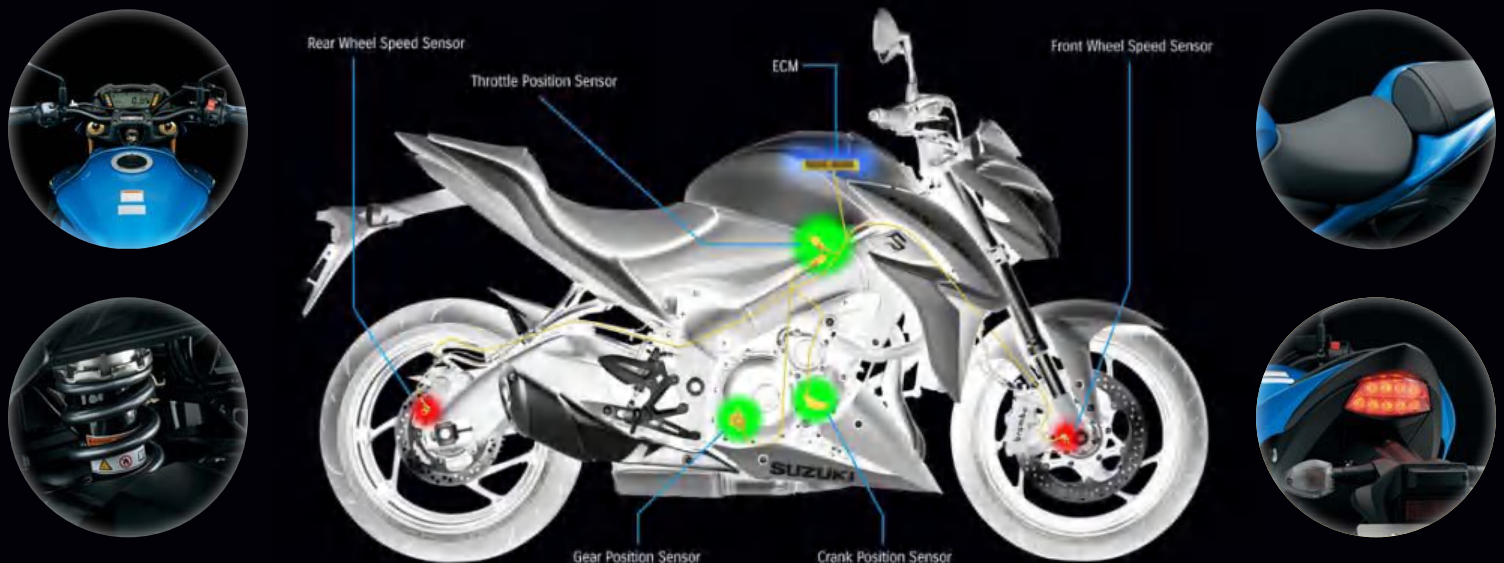
The GSX-S1000 ABS is powered by a 999cc inline four power unit based on the GSX-R1000. It has a 73.4mm bore and 59mm stroke allowing for a maximum power of 145.52PS @ 10000RPM and 106Nm @ 9500RPM. Keeping the power plant fed is Suzuki's original Dual Throttle Valve fuel injection system. Paired with an Air Cleaner, the GSX-S1000 ABS provides fuel efficiency and smooth revs on top of Euro 3 compliant emission levels.

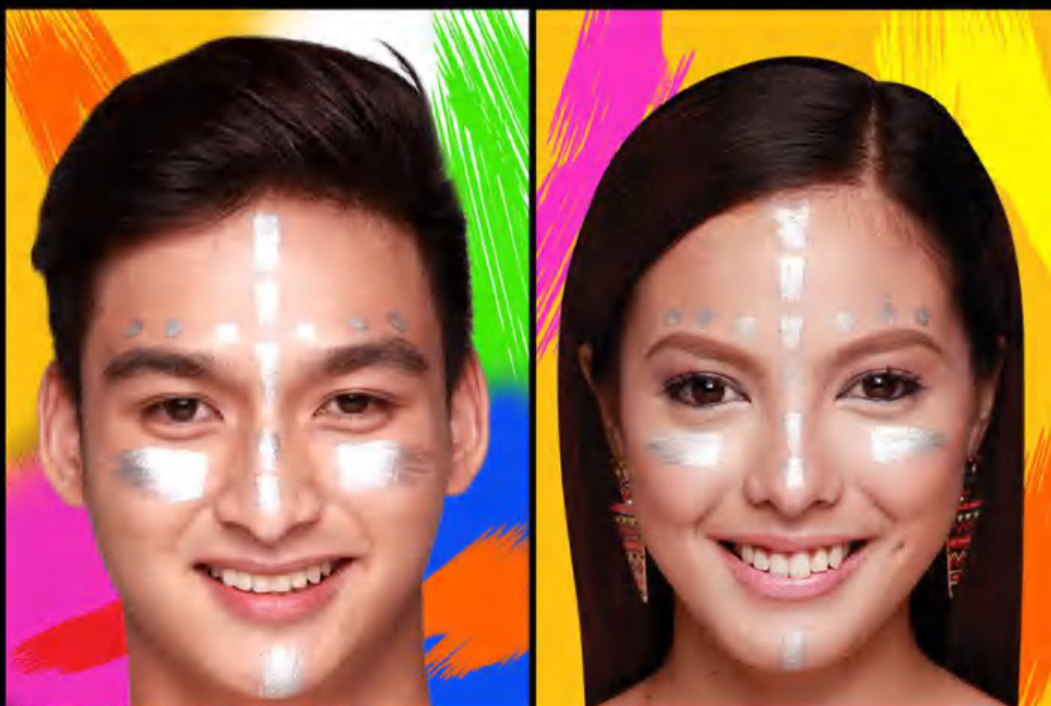
Also featured is the company's Advanced Traction Control System which utilizes five sensors throughout the motorcycle to optimize ignition timing and air delivery. An accompanying switch on the left handlebar allows riders to select three different sensitivity levels for the best experience on proper straightaways, regular city roads, and bad road conditions.

It also sports a 43mm KYB inverted front damping fork, link-type rear suspension, Brembo radial mount brake calipers, and an antilock brake system with a Bosch ABS control unit, all the while riding on 6-spoke aluminum cast wheels.

As for appearance, the Suzuki GSX-S1000 ABS is unmistakably a performer. Poised to impress, it has a lightweight yet muscular aluminum body with an aerodynamic frame, braced aluminum swingarm, LED headlight, taillight, and turn signal lights, layered radiator shroud, short muffler, a sporty yet comfortable seat, and a full LCD instrument panel.

The new Suzuki GSX-S1000 ABS is available in metallic triton blue, sparkle black/candy daring red, and mat fibroin gray. It has a suggested retail price of PHP 599,000.





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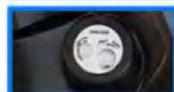
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Actual colors of promo items may vary based on availability.



Promo Duration: August 21, 2015 - December 31, 2015
Per DTI IV-A Permit No.: 08-334 Series of 2015



Maagang Pamasko Combo Regalo 2015



Smash 115.



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THE NEW **GSX-S150** *DEBUT!*



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POWERFUL 155cc SUZUKI ENGINE

with Suzuki Eco Performance to deliver a smooth running condition at low fuel consumption.

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DUAL-TYPE EXHAUST MUFFLER



Dual-outlet muffler (first in Suzuki's small motorcycles) is designed for high exhaust efficiency

MONO-SHOCK SUSPENSION



Mono-shock rear suspension for better riding comfort and handling stability.

FULL-DIGITAL INSTRUMENT PANEL



Flat panel design looks like a smartphone. Engine RPM indicator is the same Hayabusa and GSX-R1000 in specification.



DRIVE MORE TO REACH MORE.

CARS | BIKES | ENTERTAINMENT | PARTIES

Fontana holds first-ever Fontana Clark Auto-Motorama 2015

In partnership with Clark Development Corporation, San Miguel Corporation, and Smart PLDT Telecommunications, Fontana Hot Spring Leisure Parks successfully hosted the Fontana Clark Auto-Motorama 2015 (FCAMR2015) at Fontana Convention Center from November 13 to 15.

With the theme "Drive More To Reach More," the event was more than just an auto show as it also included a golf tournament, the Car Awards Group, Inc. 2015 Car of the Year Gala Awards Night, a Black and White Pool Party, the 5th JSK Fun Run for the benefit of the Reach Out World Wide Foundation, and the grand finals of the Fontana Dance Showdown in its list of activities.

Breaking their previous record of 510 participants, the fifth JSK Auto Fun Run headed by Johnson Tan, recorded a total of 1,059 cars and motorcycles in the convoy. The participants took-off from the Trinoma Mall parking area in Quezon City, and cruised along the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), and converged at the Fontana Clark at around noon. The highlight of the event was the prepared raffle for the Fun Run participants, where a brand-new BYD F0 car served as the grand prize. Part of the proceeds from the Fun Run was earmarked for the Reach Out World Wide Foundation.

"For several years now, we have always been a great advocate of Reach Out World Wide Foundation—the same beneficiary supported by the late action star Paul Walker, who starred in the immensely popular *Fast and Furious* movie series," said Fontana chief executive officer Manuel Sequeira during the grand opening held at the Fontana Clark on November 13.

The Auto Show, which took up the entire Fontana Convention Center, featured super cars, family cars, hot rods, super bikes, military jeeps, vans, trucks, and ATVs. Also on display was a replica of the MAZDA RX7 used in the *Fast and Furious* film, as well as a Kawasaki Hayabusa, said to be one of the fastest production motorbikes in the world.

FCAMR2015 was made possible the following event partners: Clark Development Corporation; San Miguel Corporation; PLDT; Smart Communications; and co-organized by San Miguel Brewery; San Miguel Purefoods; Ginebra San Miguel; Petron; JSK Custom Paint & Auto Works; the Car Awards Group, Inc. (CAGI); and the Clark International Speedway.



L to R: Roberto Huang, President, San Miguel Brewery; Mabalacat Mayor Marino "Boking" Morales; Atty. Arthur Tugade, President and CEO, Clark Development Corporation; Dr. Lam Ying Lok, Chairman, Jimei Group; Luigi Lopa, Vice President, PLDT Smart Telecommunications



L to R: Roberto Huang, President, San Miguel Brewery; Mabalacat Mayor Marino "Boking" Morales; Atty. Arthur Tugade, President and CEO, Clark Development Corporation; Dr. Lam Ying Lok, Chairman, Jimei Group; Norman Ng, Managing Director, Jimei Group; Manuel Sequeira, CEO, Fontana Hot Spring Leisure Parks; Ken Yap, General Manager, Fontana Hot Spring Leisure Parks; Luigi Lopa, Vice President, PLDT Smart Telecommunications; Jimmy Lim, COO, Jimei Int'l Entertainment Group



BYD President Mark Tieng with BYD F0 Winner Chrispulo Eusebio



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The Power of Dreams at the 44th Tokyo Motor Show

Words and Photos by Mika Fernandez-David | Additional Photos by Honda Press

A tribute to the past, the present, and the future—that is how to best summarize the opening program of the Honda pavilion at the 44th Tokyo Motor Show, held on October 28, 2015 at the held at the Tokyo Big Sight in Ariake, Koto-ku, Tokyo, Japan. No less than Honda Motor president and CEO Takahiro Hachigo welcomed the crowd to the biggest display area in the biennial event. Honda's global brand slogan "The Power of Dreams" was the concept for the integrated booth that showcased their four-, three-, and two-wheel offerings, as well as Honda's generator business, and other products unique to their brand.

"When I became president of Honda, one of the themes I set in our pursuit of a new Honda is the 'Continuous development of challenging products unique to Honda and delivering them to our customers around the world.' Today, I am pleased to be here to introduce challenging mobility products filled with the unique characteristics of Honda," said Hachigo.

Sharing center stage and juxtaposed with the state of the art machines was Honda's original Super Cub. First offered in 1958 as a new mobility product, the Super Cub can be described as the origin of Honda mobility.

First to be introduced in the four-wheel segment was the all-new NSX supercar that combines excellent driving dynamics with environmental sustainability. The all-new NSX features a new direct-injection twin-turbo VTEC V6 engine, vertically mounted on a lightweight vehicle body. It has a mid-ship layout together with a highly efficient and high-output Sport Hybrid SH-AWD (Super Handling - All Wheel Drive) hybrid system. This system enables both outstanding driving performance and fuel economy. The all-new NSX is scheduled to begin production in North America

HCPI president & general manager Toshio Kuwahara posing with the Honda Clarity Fuel Cell





CBR250RR



RC213V-S



HONDA CB



WANDER STAND



CIVIC TYPE-R



E-500 BATTERY INVERTER POWER SOURCE



in Q2 of next year. After the start of sales there, it will eventually be introduced to other markets, including Japan.

Next up was the very popular Civic Type R. "I would say that this Civic Type R is the sports model that most expresses what only Honda can do, because it was created by pouring all of Honda's sports DNA into a popular mass-market model, the Honda Civic. Especially, this all-new model was developed with a goal to create the 'best Civic Type R model ever,'" said Hachigo. Honda is initially offering only 750 units of the Type R in Japan with a price tag of JPY 4.28M.

The last, and arguably the most significant to be launched was the all-new Clarity Fuel Cell FCV sedan that is set to go on sale in Japan in March of 2016, and subsequently, in the US and European markets. This is the world's first production model of a FCV. "By installing a downsized FC powertrain under the hood, we realized a cabin that accommodates 5 people as comfortably as the cabin of a regular gasoline-powered sedan model. Moreover, this model features a cruising range of more than 700km, which is top-class range among all FCVs, and exhilarating driving made possible by the motor drive," said Hachigo.

"Honda also strives to link this Clarity Fuel Cell to the establishment of a society where people "generate" and "use" hydrogen energy and "get connected" for energy by combining it with a smart hydrogen station and external power feeding device. Our external power feeding device, the Power Exporter 9000, has a capacity to feed approximately seven-days' worth of electricity for an average household. The Power Exporter 9000 is scheduled to go on sale at the same time as the Clarity Fuel Cell," he added.

For his part, Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. (HCPI) president Toshio Kuwahara said "although none of the featured vehicles are for the Philippine

market, we still benefit from the R&D and some of the components from the featured vehicles." One of these components that we hope lands on our shores soon is Honda's 1.5-liter turbo engine.

Other cars on display at the Honda pavilion included the Legend that was recently launched the Philippines; the Odyssey Hybrid that is equipped with the further advanced SPORT HYBRID-iMMD (Intelligent Multi Mode Drive) system; the CR-Z, and the JDM-only S660, Step WGN, and N-Box.

Aside from the automobiles, Honda's alternative transportation, motorcycle, and power products segments also shared valuable real estate in this year's showcase.

Notable displays were the concept vehicles like the Honda Project 2&4 that made its global debut at the 2015 Frankfurt Motor Show, and the Wander Stand and Wander Walker that offer alternative means of transport.

In the motorcycle section, the Light Weight Super Sports Concept was a definite headturner, with its long nose and low crouching position. It is a concept model for the next-gen super sport model. The three-wheeled sport hybrid Neowing concept was another crowd favorite with its unconventional looks and promise of stability. The Grom 50 Scrambler Concept-One was another retro-looking concept that is geared towards the younger set. The RC213V-S excited the racing aficionados, as it is a street-ready version of the popular RC213V MotoGP machine. Finally, there was also the CRF 1000L Africa Twin that offers outstanding performance for both on and off-road use.

The E500 battery inverter power source also had its own individual display, showcasing the numerous colors and designs available that help individuals express themselves.

"Honda also strives to link this Clarity Fuel Cell to the establishment of a society where people "generate" and "use" hydrogen energy and "get connected."



Honda Philippines, Inc. taps Daniel Padilla as the face of the new Gen-S motorcycles

Teen idol Daniel Padilla enjoys a handful of activities in his career—movie and television projects and international concert tours, to name a few—yet he still finds time to be a positive influence to his fans by making the right decisions. His latest exciting venture aims to further influence today's youth, this time to make the same smart choices on the road, through riding with Honda motorcycles.



Daniel headlines as the newest endorser of the latest innovative breed of Honda motorcycles—Generation Smart (Gen-S). Showcasing better fuel-efficiency, road safety, and eco-friendly features, the Honda motorcycles are perfect for the diverse personalities of the emerging generation of smart riders.

Designed for the young Filipino's varying needs and lifestyles, the Beat-Fi "Let Your Beat Out", Click 125i "Join the Evolution", and Zoomer-X "I.Am.Unstoppable" are all equipped with Honda Smart Technology, a unique set of revolutionary features suited for the Gen-S, to enhance and create positive impacts in their everyday life.

"Proud ako na mapiling endorser ng Honda Gen-S motorcycles. Hindi lang kasi sa porma dapat maganda, pati na rin sa features—matipid, eco-friendly, at safe sa kalsada. 'Pag smart rider ka, dito ka sa Honda Gen-S motorcycles," Padilla said.

Among the three motorcycles, his personal favourite is the Honda Zoomer-X for its real

naked, tough, and durable design concept that goes with a fuel-efficient 110cc engine for a cleaner combustion and higher torque power.

Perhaps the most important features of the Honda Smart Technology, the Enhanced Smart Power (eSP), Idling Stop System (ISS), and Combined Break System (CBS) encompass fuel-efficiency, eco-friendliness, and road safety, suited for every Gen-S rider.

The eSP is known for its advancement in engine technology that ensures superior engine power and improved fuel mileage, while the ISS automatically switches off the motorcycle's engine after three (3) seconds of idling (ideal for any traffic situation), and the CBS activates both rear and front breaks for a greater and safer stopping power.

All these features in the latest Honda motorcycles are preferred by Gen-S riders as well as Daniel himself. *"Pare-parehong importante 'yung features ng Smart Technology, pero gusto ko talaga 'yung Idling Stop System kasi nakakapahinga 'yung*

makina ng motorsiklo, tipid pa sa gas lalo na kung trapik," Padilla shared.

The Generation S or Gen-S is a group of people who are smart and sensible—those who value practicality and technological innovation with style. All these expectations are met by the core concept of Smart Technology, which has been the cutting edge of Honda Philippines, Inc. in the Motorcycle Industry.

As the face of Gen-S, Daniel also highlights how smart motorcycle riders make choices for the benefit of others. *"Dahil na rin sa gamit naming mga motor na mas tipid sa gasolina, eco-friendly, at safe, mas magiging ligtas ang kalsada natin at mas dadami ang smart riders."*

For Daniel, there's no other choice than the Honda Gen-S motorcycles. *"Dito na tayo sa merong Smart Technology! Hindi ba mas maganda 'pag tipid sa gas, eco-friendly, at safe? Sa mga hindi pa Gen-S riders, ride with us na!"*



THE NEW GENERATION OF **SMART** RIDERS



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SMART POWER**
✓ Fuel efficient
✓ High Power & Torque



IDLING STOP
✓ Eco-friendly
✓ Fuel Saver



COMBI BRAKE
✓ Safety
✓ Convenient



Car parts shopping made more convenient with NissanParts.PH



Nissan Philippines recently launched Nissan Parts Online, an online store where customers can purchase original Nissan parts and merchandise directly from Nissan's warehouse. Purchases big and small enjoy nationwide free shipping, with a 24-hour-delivery-or-your-money-back guarantee for Metro Manila deliveries placed before the daily 11 AM cut-off. For provincial deliveries, they promise a two – to three-day turnover rate, and for far flung, identified as "out of delivery" areas, delivery is pegged at a maximum of eight days.

"Nissan is excited to introduce a new innovation to the automotive industry as we launch our *Nissan Parts Online portal*," said Antonio Zara, president and managing director of Nissan Philippines, Inc. "It is our commitment to bring Innovation that Excites to our market. The launch of Nissan Parts Online is another testament to our promise of turning What If into What Is, through continuously challenging and innovating how we serve our customers."

The online parts portal makes available genuine Nissan parts and accessories to customers who may not have available access to Nissan dealerships. The extensive list of Nissan items available ensures customers of the convenient upkeep of their vehicles, and also features promotional announcements for specific parts, accessories, and merchandise. By bringing additional ease and convenience, Nissan takes another step towards better customer service.

The Nissan Online Portal can be reached at www.nissanparts.ph.

Suzuki Triple Threat goes on Philippine tour



After launching their Triple Threat lineup last August, Suzuki Philippines Inc. brought the Address, Gixxer, and AX4 to more than 1,300 Suzuki dealer branches and over 3,000 front liners in the largest cities of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

"We strongly believe that on top of great products, our dealers and sales front liners play a big role (as to) why Suzuki does well in the market. It is through our vast network of dealers that our motorcycles reach our customers; that is why we are coming to

them and teaching them well enough about our new products," said Suzuki Philippines Inc. president Hiroshi Suzuki.

Specifically, the launches took place in Baguio, Dagupan, Cabanatuan, Roxas, Pampanga, Ilocos, Isabela, Laguna, Batangas, Lucena, Palawan, Tayabas, Pinamalan, Naga, Legazpi, Tacloban, Roxas, Iloilo, Bacolod, Butuan, South Cotabato, Cagayan de Oro, and Pagadian, among others. On top of these, separate launches were also held in Manila at Blue Leaf Pilipinas; in Cebu City at Oakridge Pavilion; and in Davao City at RSM Events Place, Philippine Women's College.

Attending the launches around the country were managing director Norminio Mojica, general manager for sales and marketing of motorcycle division Jun Bulot, marketing head Monch Bontogon, and assistant national sales manager Mitsunori Shiraishi. Regional managers Nelson Vilorio, John Calimbahin, Tom Ramos, Allan Panlibuton, Bong Pascual, and Joel Martin were also present in their respective areas.

The Suzuki Triple Threat regional tour aimed to educate the brand's front liners and followers about their latest bikes. One of the most important feature aboard the bikes is Suzuki's Eco Performance technology combined with their Fuel-injection System (SEP Fi) for maximum power and fuel mileage.

For more details please contact: Suzuki Philippines Advertising and PR at (+63)917-866-7442; or visit <http://suzuki.com.ph/> or join their community at <https://www.facebook.com/suzukibikersfed/>.

Kia set for a greener vehicle lineup

Kia Motors has revealed its green car roadmap which puts a premium on the development of more eco-friendly vehicles and technologies, helping the brand in its bid to be a leading low emission vehicle manufacturer before 2020. Hyundai Motor Group, Kia's parent company, will be investing a total USD 10.2-billion in the endeavor. Not only will it help fund research and development for greener models, it will also be used to build new environment-conscious facilities, in turn helping create thousands of new domestic jobs.

Ki-Sang Lee, senior vice president, Eco-Friendly Vehicle R&D Center, Kia Motors Corporation, commented, "Global market demand is shifting to electric vehicles, with oil prices predicted to rise in

the future. The electric and plug-in hybrid vehicle market will grow rapidly in the coming years, and this investment will enable Kia to meet the growing demand with a range of advanced new products and technologies."

Kia is hoping to expand its current stable of four green cars to 11 in five years. The company is well on their way towards their goal with the recent teasing of the Kia Optima Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle with a high-capacity Li-po battery pack, electric motor, and six speed automatic gearbox; and the Niro Hybrid Utility Vehicle with a CO2 emission of 90g/km.

Additionally, Kia has set its eye on a 2020 mass production date of an all-new hydrogen fuel cell

vehicle. It will feature a new fuel stack akin to that of a 2L internal combustion engine paired to an advanced power train. The brand's engineers estimate that the final model will be 5-percent more efficient and 10-percent more powerful while being 15-percent lighter and 15-percent less in volume compared to current fuel cell stacks. Range is currently pegged at 800km at a top speed of 170km/h.

Seven out of 10 current engine makes from the brand will also be replaced with next generation units to optimize its existing lineup. All in all, these will equate to an average corporate fuel efficiency growth of 25-percent over a five-year period.



Mitsubishi Motors Philippines teams up with Visayan Electric Company for i-MiEV evaluation



L-R: Froilan Dytianquin, MMPC first vice president for marketing; Anton Perdices, VECO chief operating officer; Rene Poro, assistant vice president for operations, Fast Autoworld Philippines Corp. (MMPC's Cebu franchised dealer); and Byron Daquil, from MMPC Product Planning section.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation (MMPC) recently sent over an i-MiEV (Mitsubishi innovative Electric Vehicle) unit to the Visayan Electric Company (VECO) for the company to review.

VECO is the second largest electric utility in the Philippines. It serves the cities of Cebu, Mandaue, Talisay, Naga, and four municipalities of the greater part of Metro Cebu--Liloan, Consolacion, Minglanilla, and San Fernando.

Under the demo program, the i-MiEV unit lent to VECO will be thoroughly studied and evaluated. To test this zero emission pure electric car's performance, it will be driven along the roads of Cebu. After putting it through its paces, VECO will

then be able to make an assessment of its power requirements, including cost and other technical related issues from the information they were able to gather.

This cooperation also aims to provide Filipinos better knowledge, awareness, and appreciation towards the EV technology.

"We are pleased to cooperate with VECO on the evaluation of our i-MiEV, pure electric car," Froilan Dytianquin, MMPC FVP for marketing, said. "We are also hoping that we can include VECO as one of our partners in raising awareness of the public that pure electric vehicles in addition to being environment friendly, can be viable for daily use," Dytianquin added.

The i-MiEV is an electric eco-vehicle launched by Mitsubishi Motors in 2009. Aside from being environment-friendly, the i-MiEV is also very efficient and economical with its cost per kilometer to drive being just one third of a gasoline-run vehicle. It also bagged the "Environment Special Grand Prize" at the 25th International Automobile festival in Paris for its zero carbon dioxide tailpipe emissions that greatly contributes to climate protection.

The i-MiEV is available in various countries and regions all over the world, including Japan, Europe, Hong Kong, Australia, Estonia, the United States, and Canada.

Roteco debuts E-Trike and E-Jeepney

Photos by Benedict Asal

Yes, the jeepney and tricycle are two of the most iconic Filipino vehicles, but they're also big contributors towards noise and air pollution, particularly the ones that are more than a couple of years old. Ropali Corporation and Teco Electric and Machinery Co., Ltd., through a joint venture will be releasing E-Trikes and E-Jeepneys under the name Ropali-Teco Corporation (Roteco) to help turn the country's public transport system into a greener, cleaner service.

Ropali Corporation president Roberto Alingog, said during the launch, "Roteco's primary objective is to introduce innovation in the transport sector by creating battery powered E-Vehicles that will dramatically lower noise pollution and smoke emission. Part of our advocacy is to drive social entrepreneurship with the objective of giving back to people by means of having clean air and clean living environment".

"By working hand in hand with the private and the public sector, this technology will not only improve our transport system but this will also create a significant change in safety and in health of our community," he added.

Chao Kai Liu, Teco chairman, elaborated "Ropali and Teco believe that by bringing green and smart mobility, we can raise the bar of public transport in the Philippines. We have capitalized on the five premium qualities of our products: S-Safety, P-Power, E-Efficiency, C-Comfort, and S-Stability. SPECS,

as we call it, are qualities that help address the current issues of E-Vehicles."

Roteco's E-Trike model features a 4+1 passenger and driver format, safety body roll cage, wide passenger door, and a water resistant electric motor for protection against splashes and rain.

This power plant is a 2.3kW variety with an 80km range for every full charge. It's complemented by heavy duty front forks, leaf spring suspension, and flat and ladder type chassis.

Meanwhile, the Roteco E-Jeepney comes with a side entrance, rear emergency exit, vacuum-assisted braking, European electrical control system, and a 12kW electric motor that outs 140Nm of torque good for 80km on a single charge. It's able to seat 20 passengers and 1 driver, with their comfort ensured by an under chassis and central bearing, leaf spring suspension, and extra damping cylinder. Time on the wheel is also made better thanks to an Electric Power Steering System, Electronic Ticketing Onboard Device, and Fleet GPS Management.

In anticipation of orders, Roteco has built a manufacturing and assembly plant in Subic Olongapo that will start operation on January 2016. Interested parties and customers can reach Roteco through +6347-252-1324 or through the website www.roteco.ph.

"By working hand-in-hand with the private and the public sector, this technology will not only improve our transport system but this will also create a significant change in safety and in health of our community."



Every day humans squander a good chunk of the Earth's resources. Our actions, along with the huge carbon footprint and chemicals we release into our surroundings degrade land, air, and water systems. These destructive human activities can render the environment dead in a few short lifetimes. We know this, yet we take little to no action to save the Earth from the brink of irreversible change. But the good news is we are in a period where various innovations, when aptly utilized, can help ensure a liveable world for us and generations to come.

On the forefront of these innovations are renewable energy systems. Oasis Powerhouse, provider of renewable energy solutions, offers a revolutionary and "clean" technology that champions the environment of which can help communities attain healthy and sustainable living in the long run.

Established in 2009 in Canada, and now in the Philippines, Oasis Powerhouse takes pride in its three-source energy supply system that combines geo/solar thermal heating systems, solar panels, and a wind turbine to generate power from natural resources without doing them harm. The products that the company manufactures and distributes are proven to be efficient alternatives to conventional electric power. Utilizing clean, renewable energy enable us to reduce carbon footprint while cutting down on energy costs.

Other Oasis Powerhouse products include LED lights, solar-powered fans, solar water pumps, hydro pump, geothermal heat pump, and packages, such as the Okavango, to supply you renewable energy wherever you are in the world.

"NET ZERO" HOMES

Oasis Powerhouse also advocates sustainable green lifestyle through seminars and trainings. Its aim is to expand its reach and raise awareness to counter climate change around the world. In lieu of this, the company branched out to the country to help Filipinos turn their homes "net-zero." The latter is a term for annual energy consumption and carbon emissions of an average home add up to zero. In a nutshell, it means no overall energy consumption: you use up energy but it's all from renewable energy sources. Installing Oasis Powerhouse products into homes and establishments can lower electricity costs and at the same time underpin the environment.

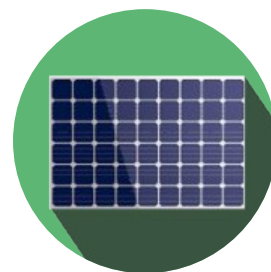
"The idea of generating enough energy to power your own home and pay for it by reducing, or even eliminating, hydro and gas bills is very attractive," said Archie Guvie, CEO for Oasis Powerhouse.

The company's goal is to have an Oasis Powerhouse technology in every city by the year 2020. Oasis Powerhouse's unwavering efforts along with our commitment to environment protection and preservation can help humanity achieve a sustainable future.



Archie Guvie, Oasis Powerhouse CEO

Oasis Powerhouse Products



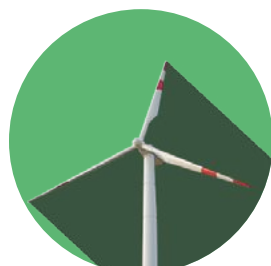
SOLAR PV - Photo-voltaic systems use solar cells to convert solar energy such as sunlight and ultraviolet radiation into usable electricity. They are cost efficient and requires low maintenance.



SOLAR WATER HEATER - Low pressure solar hot water system can convert up to 50-percent of the sun's heat into energy; this can then be used to heat water or run an AC unit.



SOLAR THERMAL AIR-CONDITIONING UNIT - The Solar Air-Conditioning system makes use of the sun as an additional heat source to drive the cooling process of a typical AC system, this in turn reduces the electrical consumption required to run the compressor.



WIND TURBINE - The fourth Oasis Powerhouse energy source is a wind turbine. Made up of two or three propeller-like blades, it converts wind energy to mechanical power or electricity. There are two kinds of turbines: vertical and horizontal axis. One or the other will be used as part of the Powerhouse package depending on site variables. Powerhouse wind turbines are mounted atop the home's roof and do not require tower placement. Energy produced works with Powerhouse's solar panel inverter to power your home.

TRAVELING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Words by Presy Alba | Art by Theresa Eloriaga

I recently attended a conference where one of the speakers told the audience that we are living in an age where the biggest hotel chain in the world does not own a single room to let and the biggest taxi company does not own cars.

He was speaking of Airbnb and Uber of course. I do not need to talk about Uber because all of us rely on Uber to make sure we reach our destination.

Wikipedia describes Airbnb as "a website for people to list, find, and rent lodging. It has over 1,500,000 listings in 34,000 cities and 190 countries." Airbnb is a great alternative to a hotel stay. The properties they list range from super budget to very luxurious appointments. So chances are, you'll find a great place to stay in a very convenient and accessible location.

I've booked accommodations from Airbnb in Rome and Madrid this year and both were awesome properties in very nice neighborhoods. In Rome, we lived like locals in a top-floor apartment along Via Cavour just around the corner from Santa Maria Maggiore. Our apartment had a big master bedroom with a big bathroom, another loft bedroom with its own toilet, and the sofa turned into another Queen-size bed. It had a kitchen and dining area, a washer and dryer and Wi-Fi! And it cost us about a third less than if we booked in a 2-3 star hotel in that area.

In Spain, we stayed at a smaller two-bedroom apartment with one bathroom and a very small kitchenette but it was located in Calle de Silva, just a few steps from Gran Vía in the center of Madrid.

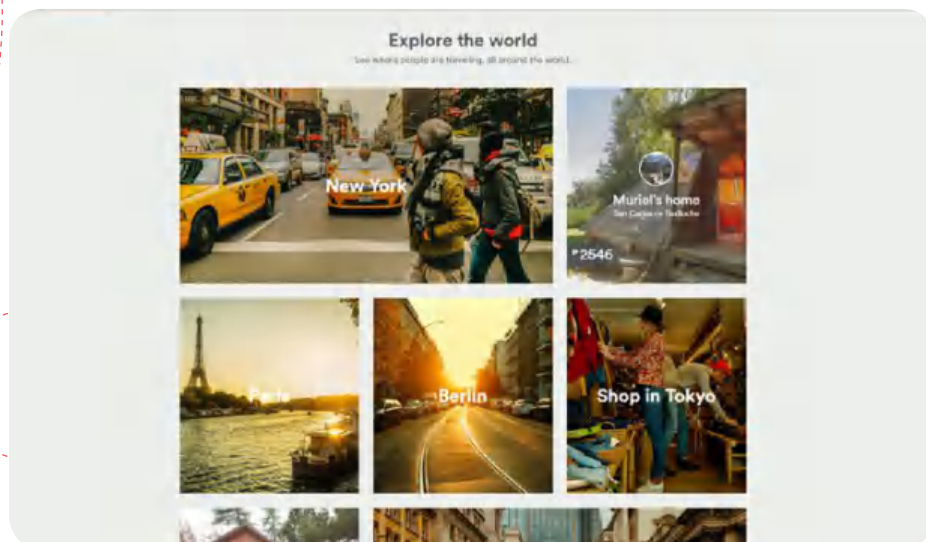
Airbnb works just like any hotel online reservation facility. All you need to do is fill in the search box where you want to go, put in the dates, number of guests and then select whether you want an entire home or apartment, or a private room or shared room. You can filter it even further and specify number of rooms, bathrooms, and beds. You also have a choice to see only listings that can be booked instantly and/or if you want to rent from recognized super hosts.

I like to book with super hosts because they have properties that are rented quite often (at least ten times within a 1-year period). They also get high ratings from their guests, always honor confirmed reservations, and reply to emails and messages quickly.

Payment is through credit card, so there's really no hassle. There's usually a cleaning fee charged on top, and depending on your destination, your host may charge the city tax for each night of your stay (paid in cash on your arrival).

Booking is quite straight-forward. But arranging how you'll get the keys requires a few email and SMS exchanges, but once you let your host know your time of arrival, they will make certain that someone will be waiting for you at the apartment to let you in.

Whatever accommodation type you choose, whether it is a whole apartment, a private room, or a shared room, you will most assuredly live comfortable and quickly feel like you're a local.



DESTINATION: Madrid

Words by Presy Alba

Travel is now more affordable. Asian destinations are the most affordable and best places to go to on long weekends. The US is also a great place to visit especially when you have friends and family over there. But for me, European destinations are truly fascinating.

Granted, a European holiday will definitely be more expensive than an Asian holiday, but in my experience, with a lot of planning, extensive Internet research, and choosing wisely, a one-destination European holiday can be very affordable.

If you plan to go to only one European destination, I highly recommend Madrid and the nearby cities. It has awesome museums, historical sites, spectacular architecture, and great food—everything you can expect in a cosmopolitan city with a very laid-back atmosphere.

Plan your vacation for at least five days. Make Madrid your base. To save on accommodation, consider booking through *AirBnB* rather than a regular hotel. This is what I and four friends did when we went to Madrid last September—we rented a 2-bedroom apartment just a few steps from Gran Via, and it only cost us PHP 5,000 each for a 4-night stay—that's about the cost of only a one night stay in a 3-star hotel in that area.

MADRID

From Gran Via, take a hop-on hop-off bus to get the lay of the land. Madrid has a lot of tourist attractions. You should definitely visit the spectacular Royal Palace and grounds—be prepared to take a lot of photos and selfies. Plaza del Sol is a great place to visit day or night—there's always some activity there; and whether you're a guy or a girl, stop by Casa de Diego and buy your mom a Spanish fan—I guarantee that she'll love you for it. If you like art and paintings, you should not miss going to the Prado Museum—it has an awesome collection. Just remember to book your tickets online so you skip the lines for there's usually a long line, especially on weekends. Eating in Spain can be easy-going and cheap

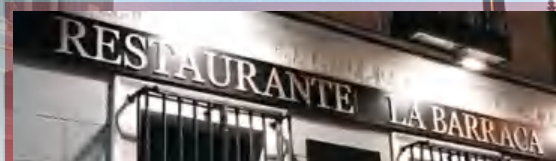
in Tapas bars or quite expensive in fine-dining restaurants. You should definitely try tapas bar hopping. It can be cheap as you get one free dish for every drink you order. There are also plenty of Museo de Jamon and Jamon Iberico shops dotting the shopping centers—these are good places to buy ham bits as snacks as you walk around.



But there are two places that you must not miss: Chocolateria San Gines located at Pasadizo San Gines (www.chocolateriasangines.com) for its churros and chocolates. They are open 24 hours but go on off hours because there's usually a long line, but truly worth the wait. The chocolate they serve is thick, hot, and delicious. Made for dipping the churros in, you end up slurping down the rest of the chocolate even after all the churros are gone.

Restaurante La Barraca (www.labarraca.es) has an unassuming entrance along Calle de la Reina, a side street parallel to Gran Via but in my opinion serves the best Paella in Madrid. For the first course, order Callos—I promise you'll drool every time you remember how your meal tasted. You'll have to make reservations though for they are very popular with both locals and tourists.

Exploring Madrid will take at least two days, with plenty of shopping opportunities and lots of food adventures. From Madrid, if you drive north, you can visit Avila and Segovia; if you drive south, you end up in Toledo. I'll tell you what's interesting in these places next time.





The Body as a Canvas

Words by Jonah Mendoza | Photos by Benedict Asal

Expressing one's self is not only limited to words and actions. Some prefer to engage in physical activities like sports, while others release their inhibitions through creative outlet. All of which, done well, are art.

Art is one way of self-expression which comprises a wide range of different forms, be they performance: dancing, singing, and acting; visual: painting, photography, sculpture; musical; or literary. While others enjoy doing art on a canvas, a camera, or even crafts made out of wood, paper, glass, or plastics, others prefer to have art on their own body.

Although tattoos may still be considered taboo in the Philippines, many people embrace the fact that it has gained traction as a legitimate form of self-expression. Getting one is easy nowadays since tattoo parlors can be seen all over, though there are some who prefer to get a traditional tattoo by going up to the mountains of Kalinga to personally be tattooed by one of the famous indigenous tattoo artists, Whang-Od.

Since Whang-Od's status spread over the social media, the fuss about tattoo has grown

even larger. To know more about the art, we interviewed Junel Bautista, who started as an assistant in a tattoo parlor shop, and now owns his own tattoo parlor, Kampo Tattoo.

Started from the bottom now we're here

Junel Bautista started at the age of 16. Back in Puerto Galera, he had a part-time job of being a henna artist to help pay for his tuition. After several years, he saved up some money and bought himself a tattoo set. To hone his skills, he offered to give one of his friends a free tattoo. The first one that he ever made was "13," which took four hours to finish. He even practiced on himself once to personally experience and understand the pain of having a tattoo, as well as further improve his technique. Aside from that, he also regularly sketched ideas, bearing in mind that a good tattoo artist is also able to draw well.





Materials and tools used

The primary tool of a tattoo artist is the tattoo gun, which is the machine used to apply tattoos. Another piece of equipment used is called the grip, which is the part the artist holds on to while working. This handle is also covered by a disposable grip tape, for hygienic purposes. Next are the accessories used: disposable needles and disposable tips. Junel also cited that one thing that should also be considered in the process of tattooing is the venue. The place should be well-lit, so that the artist can see their work clearly. Of course, a tattoo wouldn't be possible without ink. In his shop, they offer a various selection of colors and brands such as Starbright, Intense, Kurozumi, Eternal, and Dynamic. Before usage, he make sure that all of these are sterilized and unexpired.

Inking process

The process initially starts with the client's selection of a design. With this in hand, the tattoo

artist can then sketch the pattern on the client's body using a stencil. Before continuing the process, the tattoo artist also verifies if the design is proportional to the body part of the client. The time of completion is based on how large and complicated the tattoo is. Once the piece is completed, the artist then gets rid of all the disposable materials to ensure everyone's safety.

Words of wisdom

The most unforgettable tattoo experience for Junel was when he bagged 1st place in a tattoo competition. *"May time pressure yun, tapos kailangan magawa mo ng maayos yung work mo, ayun nung tinawag ako na first place, nawala naman lahat ng pagod ko."* He has a message for his fellow tattoo artists: *"Sa mga kapwa ko tattoo artists, wag sana natin kakalimutan na mag-aral pa ng mag-aral kahit nakakagawa na tayo ng maayos. Sa linya ng art, lahat ng pag-aaral hindi natatapos. Sa mga client na magpapatattoo, kailangan 101 percent sure na sila sa ipapagawa nila, tattoo; ang totoong forever."*

"Sa mga kapwa ko tattoo artists, wag sana natin kakalimutan na mag-aral pa ng mag-aral kahit nakakagawa na tayo ng maayos. Sa linya ng art, lahat ng pag-aaral hindi natatapos."





THE FUTURE OF MUSIC PRODUCTION | MUSIC.RAZERZONE.COM

You may not be a fan of the genre, but you'll certainly bob your head and tap your feet whenever any electronic dance music starts playing. Razer, realizing that people will inevitably strut some sick dance moves as the beat drops, has launched Razer Music, a digital platform featuring tutorials, articles, and other music production guides from some of the EDM industry's most renowned names.



The triple-headed snake company also partnered with Image-Line in order to ship the newest Razer Blade 2015 bundled with the *FL Studio Producer Edition* software in the hopes of pushing it as the premiere notebook for music producers.

Accessible through music.razerzone.com, Razer Music already has plenty of pages live with in-depth guides for both the software and hardware aspects of EDM, in addition to sample track packs and personal presets of their partner artists, with even more features slated to be uploaded in the future. Razer's handpicked contributors currently include *deadmau5*, *Feed Me*, *Spor*, *Metro Boomin*, *Carnage*, *Dyro*, *Ean Golden*, *Project 46*, *Sandro Silva*, *Heatbeat*, *Bare*, *Maor Levi*, *Varien*, *Burns*, *Awe*, and *Zircon*. Moreover, the artists' biographies, *SoundCloud* playlist, and tour schedule are on display for all to see.

Lastly, if you ever wanted to duplicate the workflow and actual studios of any of the above DJs, Razer has their rigs and equipment listed so

you can slowly build towards your dream music production setup.

You might notice that the artists are using the Razer Blade as their mobile, and in some cases actual, workstation. The Blade's killer specs—a quad-core Intel Core i7-4720HQ with Hyper Threading, 16GB of RAM, and beautiful 14-inch QHD+ display—allow the artists to crush any music software, whether they be Ableton Live, Bitwig Studio, or the aforementioned FL Studio. The notebook's GTX 970M is the icing on top of these producers' cakes as Razer says they're also big gamers.

"Artists and DJs from all over the world have connected with me to discuss producing on the Razer Blade," said Min-Liang Tan, Razer co-founder and CEO. "The power and portable form factor of our systems offers artists the performance they need, whether in the studio, on the road, or onstage."



5 TRULY USEFUL EL CAPITAN SHORTCUTS

Words by Presy Alba

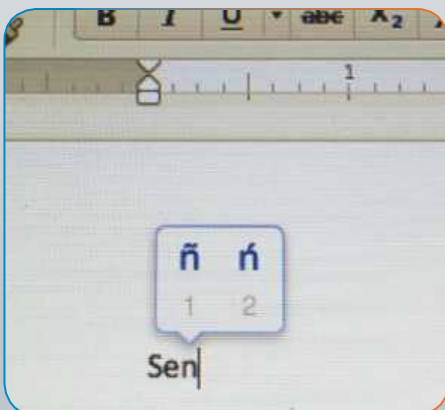
Since Mac OS X 10.11 - El Capitan was released in September this year, a long list of tips and tricks and hidden features have been covered in so many articles online and in print. Run a Google search of "El Capitan hidden features" and you'll get more than 454,000 results.

Apple has certainly done a lot of fine-tuning of the Mac OS and there are so many new things that can make working in the Apple ecosystem so much faster and more efficient. But realistically, we will not remember all the new shortcuts unless we need to use them frequently.

I'd like to share only five shortcuts and features that I know you will find useful while using your Mac computer:

1 TYPING ACCENTED LETTERS

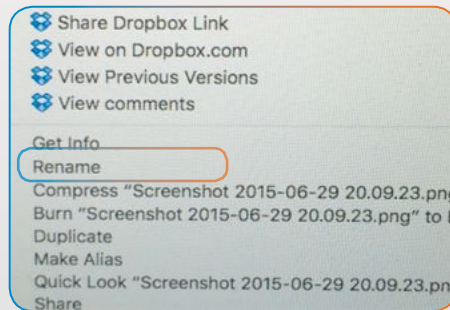
There will always be an instance when you need to type a specially accented character—like “ñ” for family names like Señal. If you’ve done this previously, you probably already know that the keyboard shortcut is to press and hold the Option key while typing “n,” then type another “n” after you release the option key. But if you do not know what the keyboard shortcut is, chances are you’ll have to open the special character viewer so you could copy that specific character. But in *El Capitan*, all you need to do is press and hold the letter and wait for the accented versions of that letter to pop up, then all you need to do is enter the number shown under the accented letter you want. Note that the accent menu will only pop-up if the letter you press has characters that have accent marks. Otherwise, the menu won’t appear.



2 RENAMING FILES

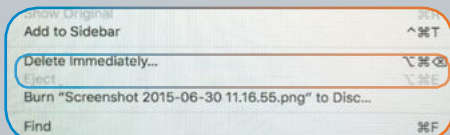
I don’t know about you, but I always found changing file and folder names a bit tricky. In previous OS X versions, you have to make sure you hit the filename precisely to be allowed to change the filename. In some cases, you may have to repeat the action several times to enable the file rename command. In *El Capitan*, you can now change the names of your files and folders using the contextual menu by following these steps:

1. Open Finder and locate the file or folder you want to rename
2. Control-click on the file (or right-click or double tap)
3. Select “Rename” on the menu that pops up
4. Type the new name of your file and folder, and press enter



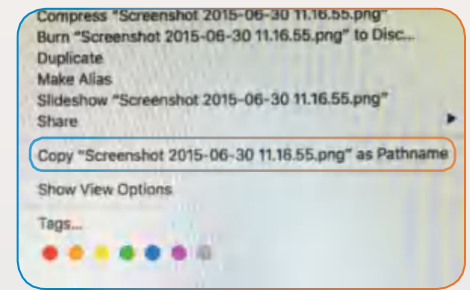
3 DELETE FILES PERMANENTLY

We have all found ourselves in situations where we want to delete a file. When you’re sure you want to erase a file permanently, deleting it and then emptying your Trash is just a hassle. Thankfully, you do not need to do that in *El Capitan*. To delete a file without sending it to Trash, all you need to do is open *Finder* and select the file you want to delete. Press and hold the Option key while clicking on the “File” menu, and click “Delete Immediately.” Alternatively, with the filename selected, press and hold Option + Command + Delete keys. A dialog box will appear to confirm that you want to delete the file immediately. Click “delete” if you want to proceed permanently erasing the file or cancel if you change your mind.



4 COPY FILE PATHNAME

If you make forms or templates, or if you’ve made several versions of one document, I bet you must have found yourself in situations where you cannot locate the exact version of the hardcopy in your hand. In these instances, you almost always wish that you added the file pathname on the footer, but you had to do type this manually. Now, in *El Capitan*, you can add the exact pathname by just going to *Finder*, Control-click (right-click or double-tap) on the file name to make the contextual menu appear, then press the Option key. This changes the “Copy” command to “Copy as Pathname”. Select Copy as Pathname to copy the pathname into the clipboard. Then you can return to your document and paste the pathname. I guarantee this will save you a lot of time looking for the correct document version in the future.



5 SEARCH SPOTLIGHT USING NATURAL LANGUAGE

Doing searches in *El Capitan* is a lot easier now with the Natural Language processor, which understands phrases. For example you can now type “emails from Julia in the last 5 days” and you’ll get all the emails you received from that person in the past five days. You can even use search for photos taken in a particular place within a specific period, like searching for “photos taken in Madrid in September.”

It does not give you perfect results all the time, but in my experience, this ability to do a search using phrases makes things a lot easier and a lot quicker.



The history of the 1911

Words by Ren Alcantara

In this month's *Bullet Points*, we're going to take a look back at possibly the most iconic firearm in modern history: John Moses Browning's venerable 1911. If you're a regular reader, you should know by now that I'm a huge 1911 fan. The slimness, heft, and the sweet, sweet single-action trigger have all contributed to its being the handgun I can shoot the most effectively, and I'm sure there are many like me. To help everyone appreciate this venerable pistol even better, let's take a look back at the history of the 1911—one that spans over 100 years, and several prototypes.

At the tail-end of the 19th century, bolt-action rifles, revolvers, and machineguns were the norm on the battlefield. There were, of course, repeating rifles and self-loading pistols, but those had yet to rise to their full potential. The widespread use of machineguns did, however, do a lot to bring to everyone's attention the feasibility of using the force of firing a round to cycle a weapon's action.

The story of the 1911 really starts a decade before it came to be, with Colt's 1900. That pistol is oddly similar to what we know and love as the 1911. It was chambered in 38 ACP, and had a strange safety, particularly by today's standards. To render the gun safe, the user

would have to depress the rear sight, which kept the hammer from acting upon the firing pin. It was unwieldy at best, and required two hands to use with any reasonable ease. It had a barrel that locked into the slide, but unlike the 1911 we know and love, the barrel dropped straight down once it was free of the locking lugs in the slide. This was done through the use of two pivot pins below either end of the barrel, as opposed to the single one we see today. There was also no slide stop, so the pistol was not held open upon firing the last round. The grip was also quite a bit more vertical, but it did look like something that is clearly higher up in the 1911 evolutionary tree.

Shortly after the 1900 was released, everyone realized just how cumbersome the sight safety really was, so Colt improved upon this primary design to produce the Model 1902 Sporting. This pistol was still chambered in the same caliber, and was really little more than a 1900 with a fixed, non-moving rear sight. This meant that the only safety remaining was the one between the shooter's ears, which didn't seem to be a problem for the consumers back in the day. This pistol was sold from 1902 to 1907. Concurrently with the Sporting model, Colt also released the 1902 Military model, which sported a longer grip, a lanyard loop, and nothing else aside. It was judged to be a reliable pistol, handily passing the US Military's 6,000-round stress test with no reported problems.

Around this time, reports were coming in from the field that the .38 revolvers issued at the time were demoralizingly ineffective against the Moro guerillas in the south Philippines, many of whom were hopped up on drugs, and well protected. This led to the re-issue of the old single-action revolvers chambered in 45 Long Colt, which proved to be significantly more effective at getting the job done.

The change to a larger caliber now brings us to the Model 1905, chambered in the newly developed 45 ACP cartridge. (While we're here, it's worth mentioning that the 9mm Parabellum was produced in 1902.) The Model 1905 was one of three pistols from different manufacturers vying to be the Army's new sidearm, and retained much of the same characteristics as its predecessors: a vertically dropping barrel, basic features, and practically the same look. Since the 45 ACP is a larger round than the 38ACP, the grip, which would be home to an eight-round magazine in the 38, accepted a magazine that holds all of seven rounds. While it still lacked a safety, Colt did add a slide stop to hold the 1905 open on an



<http://wikipedia.com/>



COLT 1900

<http://rockislandauction.com/>

empty magazine. This, along with an entry from Savage Arms and DWM, were evaluated for their performance. The Model 1905 came out on top, though the army did give the manufacturers a chance to address issues that arose during tests. At that point, DWM decided to drop out of the trials, instead choosing to focus on their other weapons for other militaries. This left Colt and Savage to duke it out, speeding things up considerably.

The trials Model 1907 was created to address the concerns found in the Model 1905, the main addition being a grip safety. The Model 1909 came next, which ditched the double link, vertically dropping barrel in favor for the familiar single-pin tilting barrel that's in use by so many pistols today. Only very few were made for trials purposes, and once those were evaluated and changed, Colt released the Model 1910, which changed the relatively vertical grip of every M19XX pistol before it to a more angled design. The Model 1910 had a few problems during testing, which Colt then sorted out to finally give us the Model of 1911, later re-designated as Model 1911, and finally Model 1911.

This isn't the end of the story though. More reports from the field came in, with a lot of invaluable feedback from users. Slight changes were made, such as the inclusion of an arched mainspring housing, cutouts on the frame, behind the trigger, a squared-off rear sight, larger grip safety, and more checkering on some of the control surfaces. The incremental changes warranted a new designation, giving us (absolutely finally) the Model 1911A1. Since then, we've seen a few other changes from other manufacturers of the platform: External extractors, firing pin blocks, smaller versions, larger ones, ambi controls, and even two barrels. There's no doubt in my mind we'll see even more innovations as time goes on, but one thing is constant: the 1911 isn't going anywhere.



<http://wikipedia.com/>



Steam Stocking Stuffers

Words by Ren Alcantara and Chris Noel Hidalgo

At a loss as to what to give your gamer friends this Christmas? Don't worry. It really is a difficult thing to come up with a good gift. Allow us to take the burden from you with this list of games you can buy right off Steam and send as lovely holiday presents—no muss, no fuss, and we guarantee they'll enjoy these titles all throughout the Christmas break. The prices listed are the games' regular prices, but worry not, check back during any of the Steam sales, and you're likely going to get these titles at a significant discount.

1

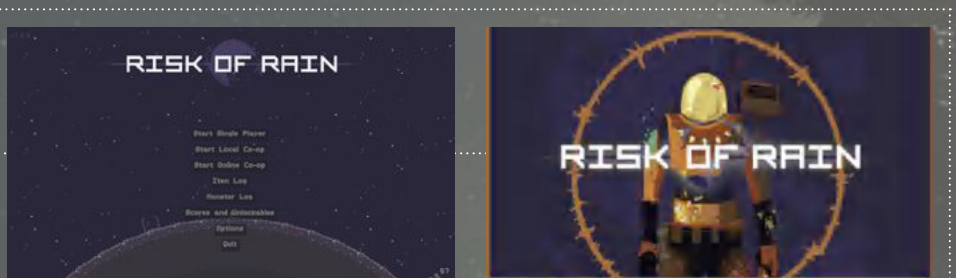


FTL: Faster Than Light (PHP 319.95)

If you ever want to be in command of a space ship, with all the peril, adventure and thrill of the same, this is your bet. *FTL* puts you in control of a spaceship and its crew as they race to Federation headquarters while being pursued by Rebel forces seeking to destroy you and the information you carry. At the start of a game, the player is made to pick a ship with a specific layout of rooms. These rooms (Piloting, engines, weapons, life support, among others) are then populated with a crew. A map is then generated, with eight sectors, each with about two dozen interesting waypoints in each sector. The player then jumps from waypoint to waypoint, unaware of what each one holds, as they make their way to the system exit. This process goes on until the player makes it to the Federation HQ. Players are allowed to back-track, though this is at the cost of fuel; a finite resource, and allows the rebel forces to catch up with the player's vessel. Waypoints can give fuel, ammo, new crew members, and repairs. Some have ships in distress, and others have traps.

The core of the game lies in combat. The player can distribute power to different systems as the situation requires, have crew move around to kill fires, repair damage, or operate weapon systems to hit opposing forces. Hull breaches, exploded rooms, disabled systems, and hostile boarding forces happen with frightening regularity, and each has to be dealt with, otherwise the player is killed, and has to start over. It offers infuriatingly difficult but addictive gameplay, and is the epitome of "one more round before going to bed." If you're the kind who likes a challenge, a refreshing gameplay model, and hair-pulling difficulty, this is the perfect game.

2



Risk of Rain (PHP 319.95)

Another rouge-like game that takes the side-scrolling action platformer to a difficult new level, *Risk of Rain* puts the player in the shoes of a survivor of a space-train crash on a hostile planet. Users choose from a stable of different characters (with more available once they are unlocked), and fight increasing hordes of enemies as they make their way through a set number of levels to defeat a final boss. Time is an element in this game, as there is just one timer for the whole playthrough, with enemies getting tougher as time rolls on.

Like all other rouge-like games, the player gets punished severely for dying. While you do have health, once it hits zero, you have to restart from the very beginning. Fortunately, the game helps you along by giving you items in collectible chests, each one (of several dozen) gives your player special abilities, attacks, or traits that help you along the journey. Characters also have their own list of special moves that let you control the tempo of the conflict a little better, make you invincible, faster, or hit harder. Part of the fun of the game is the frantic gameplay, though it's followed very closely by the item hunt, and that drive to find the perfect set of items for your playstyle. The enemies are also satisfyingly varied, with many different monster types across the different levels you fight through. As a bonus, networked multiplayer is available so you can share the frustration with a few friends.

3



Zombie Army Trilogy (PHP 1,119.95)

Built upon the successful game *Sniper Elite 3*, *Zombie Army Trilogy (ZAT)* puts you, and up to three other friends in the shoes of combatants stuck in a zombie-occupied Nazi Europe. Storytelling really isn't the game's strong suit, but that's okay. You're here to pop some zombie skulls as you travel between maps to complete each chapter.

While *Sniper Elite 3* was heavy on stealth, planning, and the fine execution of a well-thought out plan, *ZAT* is basically a more refined *Left 4 Dead*. With the same complicated ballistics as the game it is born from, *ZAT* really tests your ability to nail consistent precision shots, and rewards you with awesome X-Ray bullet-time footage of the kind of damage you did to your poor undead victim. If we've just made the game sound easy, allow us to say that it isn't. Easily one of the harder first person shooters out there, *ZAT* isn't for the faint of heart, or twitchy of hand. It's a great game regardless though.

4



Gang Beasts (PHP 499.95)

Though this game is currently in early access, *Gang Beasts* is a heaping load of fun and adorableness mixed with subtle violence. It's a fun party game involving at most eight players taking control of monotone blobs of jelly humans with large cartoonish eyes. The goal is to be the last man standing, and you can beat others up to zero health, throw them into hazards, or push them off the map in order to gain that status. With a simple control scheme, wonky in-game physics, and eight maps to choose from, it's one you'll play frequently with friends.

5



Saints Row Ultimate Franchise Pack (PHP 1,239.95)

Grand Theft Auto's over-the-top sibling, *Saints Row* is a definite must play. Seriously. Sure there's the regular shoot, steal a car, drive to here, get item XYZ, and rinse and repeat formula of the genre, but what sets the franchise apart is its comedic and light-hearted approach to the whole thing. The developers frequently break the fourth wall by references to the absurdity of the game (satires about clichés, callouts to a player who's been idle for a long time, etc.). Heck, the latest game even has you parading as the USA's super powered president taking on a maniacal and theatrical alien overlord. If that doesn't sound like a blast, we don't know what does.



HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



Up for some last minute shopping? Make this holiday season more special for your *monito/monita* with *Gadgets Magazine's* yearend *Gift Guide*. We've rounded up the top audio devices, storage solutions, hydration products, smartphones, and motorcycles in this one-stop-section covering every lifestyle, from the most discerning multimedia consumer to the up and about yuppie. They're just what you need to open the New Year with a bang.

If a brawny, stylish, and quality smartphone is what you're after, you can't go wrong with Starmobile. With a full range of devices boasting features beyond their price point, bang for your hard-earned buck is a definite guarantee.



Starmobile Knight Vision
Smartphone

- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6582 processor
- Mali 400MP2 GPU
- 2GB RAM
- 16GB expandable storage
- 13MP Sony IMX Exmor RS lens with Optical Image Stabilization (rear) and 8MP (front) cameras
- 5.5-inch IPS HD display
- 2450mAh Li-Po battery
- Wi-Fi b/g/n, Bluetooth
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- Digital TV (ISDB-T and DVB)

PHP 7,990

- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6582M processor
- Mali 400MP2 GPU
- 1GB RAM
- 8GB expandable storage
- 13MP Sony lens with BSI f/2.0 sensor and Blue Glass Filter (rear) and 8MP (front) cameras
- 4.7-inch IPS HD display
- 1800mAh Li-ion battery
- Wi-Fi b/g/n, Bluetooth
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 137 x 68 x 8.1mm; 137g
- Digital TV (ISDB-T and DVB)

PHP 4,990



Starmobile Up Vision
Smartphone



Starmobile Up Max
Smartphone

- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6582 processor
- Mali 400MP2 GPU
- 1GB RAM
- 16GB expandable storage
- 13MP Sony Exmor RS IMX135 lens (rear) and 5MP (front) cameras
- 5-inch IPS HD display
- 5000mAh Li-Po battery
- Wi-Fi b/g/n, Bluetooth
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- Digital TV (ISDB-T and DVB)

PHP 17,990



Starmobile Knight Elite
Smartphone

- 1.5GHz octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 615 64-bit processor
- Adreno 405 GPU
- 2GB RAM
- 32GB expandable storage
- 13MP BSI with flash (rear) and 5MP with flash (front) cameras
- 5-inch IPS FHD display
- 2600mAh Li-Po battery
- Wi-Fi b/g/n, Bluetooth, LTE/dual SIM
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 6.85mm thin; front and back Corning Gorilla Glass

PHP 9,990



Pioneer Audio Systems

When it comes to audio, there's good and there's great. If your workaday sound driver just isn't doing it for you anymore, these sound systems from Pioneer will give your ears the spoiling they deserve.

Pioneer

Pioneer XW-BTSP1
Bluetooth Speaker



- Wireless Audio via Bluetooth and NFC (A2DP/AVRCP)
- Two 4W Full Range speakers (38mm) and one Passive radiator
- 8W total power
- Rear 3.5mm AUX-in; micro-USB (DC input and battery charging)
- 10 hour battery life
- 200 x 76.5 x 72.5mm (W x H x D)

PHP 4,990

- In-dash double-DIN DVD multimedia AV receiver
- 7-inch WVGA touchscreen display
- Mixtrax
- Built-in Bluetooth
- iOS and Android support

PHP 24,990

Pioneer AVH-X5750BT
Multimedia Receiver



Pioneer HDJ-2000MK2
DJ Headphones

- 50mm dome type driver units
- 3.55 stereo mini-jack
- Sound isolation thanks to ear pad damper and airtight stitching
- Lightweight bindings providing maximum comfort
- Rotatable housing
- Solid build
- Available in black and silver

PHP 17,990

Pioneer HTZ-424 DVD
Home Theatre System



- 5.1-channel
- Four slim tall speakers, one subwoofer, and one center speaker
- 1000W total power
- DolbyR TrueHD, Dolby Digital, Dolby Pro Logic II, DTS-HD Master Audio Essential, Virtual 3D Surround, Front Surround, Audio Sync, Sound Retriever
- Blu-ray 3DTM Playback, 36-bit Deep Color/x.v.Color, 1080p Upscaling, Net Contents Mode
- DLNA Certified, Youtube and Picasa Viewing, Internet Radio with vTuner, PC File Playback
- Android and Apple device ready
- Karaoke ready

PHP 16,990

Want an innovative and dependable smartphone? Take your pick from Lenovo's latest line of pocket rockets. You're sure to get your money's worth with these devices that boast power and beauty, all courtesy of a tried and tested brand.



Lenovo Vibe P1
Smartphone

- 1.5GHz octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 615 64-bit processor
- Adreno 405 GPU
- 2GB RAM
- 32GB expandable storage
- 13MP phase-detection auto-focus with dual-color flash (rear) and 5MP (front) cameras
- 5.5-inch IPS FHD display
- 5000mAh Li-Po battery
- Wi-Fi b/g/n, Bluetooth, LTE
- Android 5.1 Lollipop • 152.9 x 75.6 x 4.6-9.9mm (H x W x D); 187g
- Available in platinum and graphite grey

PHP 14,999

- 1GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6735P 64-bit processor
- Mali-T720 GPU
- 2GB RAM
- 16GB expandable storage
- 8MP auto-focus with LED flash (rear) and 5MP (front) cameras
- 5-inch IPS HD display
- 4000mAh Li-Po battery
- Wi-Fi b/g/n, Bluetooth, LTE, dual microSIM • Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 141 x 71.8 x 9.3-9.5mm (H x W x D); 148g
- Available in onyx black and pearl white

PHP 7,999



Lenovo Vibe P1m
Smartphone



Lenovo A7000 Plus
Smartphone

- 1.7GHz octa-core Mediatek MTK MT6752 processor
- Mali-T760 MP2 GPU
- 2GB RAM
- 16GB expandable storage
- 13MP auto-focus with flash (rear) and 5MP (front) cameras
- 5.5-inch FHD display
- 2900mAh Li-Ion battery
- Wi-Fi b/g/n, Bluetooth, LTE, dual microSIM
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 152.6 x 76.2 x 7.99mm (H x W x D); 140g

PHP 7,999

- 1.7GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6752 64-bit processor
- Mali-T760 MP2 GPU
- 3GB RAM
- 32GB expandable storage
- 13MP BSI phase-detection auto-focus with dual-color flash (rear) and 8MP BSI/2MP (dual front) cameras
- 5-inch IPS FHD display
- 2500mAh Li-Po battery
- Wi-Fi b/g/n, Bluetooth, LTE, dual nanoSIM
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 143.3 x 70.8 x 7.8mm (H x W x D); 132g
- Available in white and gold

PHP 15,999



Lenovo Vibe S1
Smartphone

You can never have too much reliable storage. Whether you're a multimedia professional or just an avid collector of videos, photos, and music, WD's storage devices are on hand to make sure your data backups are always easily accessible.



PHP 31,490 (6TB)
PHP 40,490 (8TB)
PHP 47,990 (10TB)
PHP 53,990 (12TB)

WD
My Book Pro
 Network Attached Storage



- Up to 12TB capacity with transfer rate up to 435MB/s
- Two USB 3.0 and two Thunderbolt 2 ports
- Two 7200rpm WD Black drives in RAID 0, RAID 1, or JBOD
- Daisy chainable with up to six additional Thunderbolt devices
- Preformatted for Mac compatibility; can be reformatted for Windows

WD My Passport Wireless
 Wireless Storage



PHP 7,590 (500GB)
PHP 9,590 (1TB)
PHP 11,990 (2TB)

- Wireless-N with MIMO, SD card slot (up to 25MB/s), USB 3.0 (up to 5Gb/s)
- Instant SD Card backup
- Up to six hours continuous use; 20 hours of standby time
- Wi-Fi Hotspot function
- Simultaneous streaming to up to four devices
- Compatible with WD My Cloud mobile app and other cloud-based solutions
- Limited two years warranty

WD TV - Personal Edition
 Wi-Fi Media Player



PHP 4,000

- USB and NAS Streaming of videos (with subtitles), photos, audios, and playlists
- Supported video formats include MKV, MP4, AVI, WMV, and MOV, among others
- Controllable via WD TV Remote smartphone app
- Wi-Fi, Ethernet, HDMI, Optical Audio, USB 2.0, Composite A/V, and Miracast inputs
- Compatible with apps like YouTube, Hulu Plus, Vudu, SlingPlayer, Spotify, Pandora, and Facebook

Looking for a motorcycle perfect for your way of life? Suzuki's got a whole host of steeds just eager to please. With features, looks, and power sure to command respect, you'd be itching to ride one again and again.



**Suzuki Raider
R150**
Underbone

- 147.3cc, 4-stroke, 4-valve, Twincam engine
- 15.64PS @ 9500RPM and 12.4Nm @ 8500RPM
- 4.9L fuel capacity, Carburetor
- Manual 6-speed constant mesh transmission
- Kick and Electric
- Telescopic (front) and swing-arm (rear) suspensions
- Disc (front and rear) brakes
- Blue lens headlight; instrument panel with hi/lo shift timing indicator; engine cowling; stainless steel combustion muffler with cap; premium colored mags

PHP 94,900

- 154.9cc 4-stroke, air cooled, SOHC engine
- 14.14PS @ 8000RPM and 14Nm @ 6000RPM
- 12L fuel capacity, Carburetor
- Manual 5-speed mechanical transmission
- Kick and Electric
- Telescopic (front) and swing-arm (rear) suspensions
- Disc (front) and drum (rear) brakes
- Light, diamond-shaped chassis; large diameter front forks; mono-shock suspension; dual-outlet muffler; full-digital instrument panel

PHP 89,900



Suzuki Gixxer
Backbone

- 113cc 4-stroke, air cooled, SOHC engine
- 9.38PS @ 8000RPM and 8.7Nm @ 6500RPM
- 5.2L fuel capacity, Fuel Injection
- Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) with V-Belt
- Kick and Electric
- Telescopic (front) and swing-arm (rear) suspensions
- Disc (front) and drum (rear) brakes
- 20L utility box; Centralized Locking System; Rear Brake Lock System

PHP 66,900

Suzuki Address
Scooter



CamelBak

Before you lace up your sneakers to get started with that fitter you New Year's resolution, ensure you're going to be hydrated all the way with these nifty systems from CamelBak. As you sweat the holiday feasts out, these will make it easier to keep the water in.

CAMELBAK

CamelBak M.U.L.E. Hydration Pack



PHP 4,540

- Total Capacity: 549 cu in / 9L + 3L reservoir
- Pack-Only Weight: 1 lb 5 oz / .61 kg
- Torso Length: 16.5 in / 42 cm
- Back Panel: XV Multi-Layer EVA foam pods provide superior cross ventilation in a lightweight design
- Belt: Removable 20mm / .75" stability
- Harness: Independent suspension with ultra light 3D mesh and perforated foam
- Fabric: 70D / 210 D diamond ripstop nylon, 70D / 140D block dobby nylon
- Features: XV back panel, magnetic tube trap, bike tool organizer pocket, four-point compression, helmet hooks, antidote reservoir

CamelBak Classic Hydration Pack



PHP 2,350

- Hydration Capacity: 70 oz / 2 L
- Total Capacity: 2L Reservoir
- Total Weight: 6.7 oz / 0.19 kg (pack only)
- Dimensions: 14.75 X 9.625 X 4 in / 37.5 x 24.5 x 10 cm
- Torso Length: 13 in / 33 cm
- Empty Reservoir Dimensions: Air Mesh
- Materials: LightWeight Mesh
- Front zip pocket

CamelBak Podium Ice 21oz Bike Bottle



PHP 1,050

- Hydration Capacity: 21oz / 610ml
- Weight: 5.76oz / 163gm
- Dimensions: 10.5 X 2.9 in 26.67 X 7.4 cm
- Bottle Material: BPA-Free TruTaste Polypropylene
- Cap Material: BPA-Free TruTaste Polypropylene
- Bite Valve Material: Medical grade, self-sealing silicone Jet Valve

PHP 2,650

- Hydration Capacity: 1 L / 4 x 8 oz
- Total Capacity: 20 cu in / .33L+ 4 x 8oz bottles
- Total Weight: 2.5 oz / 70 g
- Dimensions: 4.5 x 35 in / 11.5 x 91 cm
- Back Panel: Air Mesh
- Belt: Hook and loop closure with Elastic webbing
- Fabric: 70D Diamond Clarus with DWR + 1000 mm PU & Air Mesh

CamelBak Arc 4 Hydration Belt



If the sound of a telltale motorcycle rev is enough to get your heart pumping, Yamaha's hip and fun bikes will be sure boons. They'll get you where you need to go, all the while turning heads and leaving others in the dust.



Yamaha Mio Soul i 125

- 125cc 4-stroke, 2-valve, air cooled, SOHC engine
- 9.52PS @ 8000RPM and 9.6Nm @ 5500RPM
- 4.2L fuel capacity, Fuel Injection
- Automatic transmission with V-Belt
- Kick and electric starting system
- Telescopic (front) and unit swing (rear) suspensions
- Hydraulic disc (front) and leading/trailing (rear) brakes
- Eco indicator; integrated key shutter; smart stand switch

PHP 79,900



Yamaha Mio i 125

- 155.1cc 4-stroke, 4-valve, liquid cooled, SOHC engine
- 15.09PS @ 8000RPM and 14.4Nm @ 6000RPM
- 6.6L fuel capacity, Fuel Injection
- Automatic transmission with V-Belt
- Electric starting system
- Telescopic (front) and unit swing (rear) suspensions
- Single ABS disc brake (front and rear)
- LCD instrument panel with LED backlight; underseat helmet storage

PHP 118,000



Yamaha NMax

- 125cc 4-stroke, 2-valve, air cooled, SOHC engine
- 9.4PS @ 8000RPM and 9.6Nm @ 5500RPM
- 4.2L fuel capacity, Fuel Injection
- Automatic transmission with V-Belt
- Kick and electric starting system
- Telescopic (front) and unit swing (rear) suspensions
- Hydraulic disc (front) and mechanical drum (rear) brakes
- Side stand switch; eco indicator; 14L utility box

PHP 69,900

There's a music geek in all of us and what better way to let it out than with a capable audio device blasting your favorite jams. This Christmas gift yourself or your loved ones good music with these awesome audio pieces.



PHP 1,495

- Ergonomically designed for ultimate comfort and wearability
- Crafted to follow the angles of the head
- ZoundLasso
- Pliable plug
- Potentiometer
- 3.5mm headphone jack
- Built-in mic and remote

PHP 1,495

- Anchorloop
- Reflective cable
- Cable clip
- Zoundlasso
- Built-in mic and remote
- 13.6mm dynamic driver
- Available colors: solid black, neon orange, electric lime



Coloud Hoop



Blue Ant Pump Mini

PHP 4,750

- Bluetooth 4.1
- Micro USB connector
- Rapid Charge
- 3.7v rechargeable lithium ion polymer cell
- 3GPP with DSP solution, APTX
- IP54 sweatproof
- Built-in microphone
- Superfit system
- Comfort seal tips



Soundfreaq Sound Kick 2

PHP 4,950

- IPX4 water resistant
- Built with a passive radiator for enhanced bass
- Compact
- Bluetooth 4.0
- Rechargeable battery with 8 hours of play time
- USB power port
- Line in 3.5mm input



Join the newest generation of smart riders with Honda's newest scooters. Equipped with smart technologies that make them fuel-efficient, safe, and fun to drive, these bikes are born straight out of a rider's dream.



Honda BeAT Fi eSP Series
Scooter

- 108.2cc 4-stroke, air cooled SOHC eSP engine
- 8.68PS @ 7500RPM and 9.01Nm @ 6000RPM
- 3.7L fuel capacity, Programmed Fuel Injection
- V-Matic Automatic transmission
- ACG Starting System, Kick and Electric
- Telescopic fork (front) and mono shock-unit swing (rear) suspensions
- Hydraulic disc (front) and mechanical leading trailing (rear) brakes
- Combined Brake System (CBS); Idling Stop System (ISS); 11.2L utility box; secured key shutter; side stand switch

PHP 66,900 (Standard Variant)
PHP 69,900 (CBS-ISS Variant)

- 124.8cc 4-stroke, liquid cooled, SOHC 2-valve eSP engine
- 11.4PS @ 8500RPM and 11.16Nm @ 6500RPM
- 5.5L fuel capacity, Programmed Fuel Injection
- V-Matic Automatic transmission
- ACG Starting System, Kick and Electric
- Telescopic (front) and unit swing (rear) suspensions
- Hydraulic disc (front) and mechanical leading trailing (rear) brakes
- Combined Brake System (CBS); Idling Stop System (ISS); extra-large utility box; integrated safety ignition; side stand switch

PHP 87,900



Honda Click 125i
Scooter

- 108.2cc 4-stroke, air cooled SOHC eSP engine
- 8.81PS @ 7500RPM and 9.03Nm @ 6000RPM
- 4.4L fuel capacity, Programmed Fuel Injection
- V-Matic Automatic transmission
- ACG Starting System, Kick and Electric
- Telescopic inverted fork (front) and mono shock-unit swing (rear) suspensions
- Hydraulic disc (front) and mechanical leading trailing (rear) brakes
- Combined Brake System (CBS); Idling Stop System (ISS); flexible utility box; side stand switch

PHP 93,900



Honda Zoomer X
Scooter

Chances are you're not one of those people with photographic memory, and 10 years down the line, you probably won't remember what happened this yearend. Ensure the memories live on with these impressive Canon cameras.

Canon Powershot SX610 HS

Digital Camera



- 20MP 1/2.3-inch sensor
- DIGIC 4+ image processor
- 18x zoom, 36x with Zoom Plus; f/3.8 to f/20.0
- Video capture up to Full HD 1920 x 1080
- ISO 80-1600
- 3.0-inch monitor
- Approximately 270 shots battery life
- Built-in Wi-Fi and Near Field Communication (NFC) for wirelessly sharing photos to compatible devices
- Built-in flash
- Auto zoom function

PHP 11,998

- 20MP 1/2.3-inch CCD sensor
- DIGIC 4+ image processor
- 40x optical zoom, 80x with Zoom Plus; f/3.5 to f/8.0
- Video capture up to HD 1280 x 720
- ISO 100-800
- 3.0-inch monitor
- Approximately 185 shots battery life
- Intelligent image stabilizer
- Built-in flash

PHP 12,998

Canon Powershot SX410 IS

Digital Camera



Canon EOS M3

DSLR



- 24.2MP APS-C CMOS sensor
- DIGIC 6 image processor
- Compatible with EF-M lenses and over 60 EF/EF-S lenses using EF-EOS M adapter
- Hybrid CMOS AF III
- Video capture up to Full HD 1920 x 1080
- ISO 100-25600
- 3.0-inch tilt touch monitor
- Built-in Wi-Fi and Near Field Communication (NFC) for wirelessly sharing photos to compatible devices
- Built-in flash

PHP 25,998 (with EF-M 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS STM lens)

PHP 33,498 (with EF-M 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS STM and EF-M 22mm f/2 STM lenses)

PHP 40,498 (with EF-M 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS STM and EF-M 55-200mm f/2 STM lenses)



Canon EOS 750D

DSLR

- 24.2MP CMOS sensor
- Compatible with Canon EF lenses (including EF-S lenses)
- 19-point all cross-type AF
- Video capture up to Full HD 1920 x 1080
- ISO 100-12800
- 3.0-inch TFT capacitive touch monitor
- Built-in Wi-Fi and Near Field Communication (NFC) for wirelessly sharing photos to compatible devices
- Built-in flash

PHP 34,998 (with EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS STM lens)

- 50.6MP full-frame CMOS sensor
- DIGIC 6 image processor
- Canon EF lenses (except EF-S and EF-M lenses)
- 61-point wide area auto focus
- Video capture up to Full HD 1920 x 1080
- ISO 100-12800
- 3.2-inch TFT monitor

PHP 158,998



Canon EOS 5DS

DSLR

LG G4

Beautiful and brawny, the LG G4 is a high-end Android beast that's above its peers thanks in part to its rear camera. Manual mode and laser autofocus will guarantee clear holiday memories.

Available at Electroworld, Ephone, Fone Style, LG, and MemoXpress.



iPhone 6s Plus

It doesn't get more premium than the iPhone 6s Plus. This device performs like a charm no matter the workload and can take fantastic snaps to boot.

Available at Power Mac Center.



Android powerhouse

Desktop on-the-go

MacBook Air (2015)

Featuring a beefy Intel Broadwell processor, the MacBook Air manages to retain a svelte profile perfect for users looking for a powerful companion during the Christmas break.

Available at Power Mac Center.



MacBook (2015)

Existing in the bleeding edge, the latest MacBook takes portability to an all new level. It packs a decent punch and is stuffed full of features some ultrabooks can't touch with a 10ft stick.

Available at Power Mac Center.



WHICH

GADGET

IS PERFECT FOR YOU?

Excited to make a wish upon Techie Santa? The devices here are in this year's nice list and are at your nearest SM Supermall's Cyberzone. Just pick the one you want him to leave under your Christmas tree. Happy Ho, Ho, Holidays!

START HERE!

Do you want to buy yourself a gadget for christmas?

Time to blow my Christmas bonus!

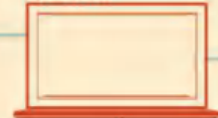
What kind of gadget do you want?

Premium inside and out

SMARTPHONE



NOTEBOOK



Light and slim

Newbie-friendly

Professional and powerful

CAMERA



WEARABLE



Stylish wrist rocket

A useful low-key tracker

Canon EOS 7D Mark II

Preserve the moments with the rebirth of Canon's EOS 7D: a feature-rich APS-C camera that will surely elevate your skills with its rugged build and superb innards.

Available at Camerahaus, PerfectShot, Electroworld, and Canon D-Zone.



Canon EOS M3

Tired of smartphoneography? Step up your game with the EOS M3, an entry-level mirrorless snapper that's simple, handy, and oh-so-wonderful.

Available at Camerahaus, PerfectShot, Electroworld, and Canon D-Zone.



Sony SmartWatch 3

Have your digital life right at your wrist with the Sony SmartWatch 3, an Android Wear device that's infinitely useful.

Available at Sony Centres by Asid and Camerelhaus.



Huawei TalkBand B2

The Huawei TalkBand B2 is a stylish activity tracker that handles your holiday nocturnal and caloric number crunching.

Available at Blueite, Bomatech, MemoXpress, Mt. Studio, PC Express, Ranlay, PC Gokline, Telipone, Thinking Tools, and Wilman.



Decided on what's going on your wish list? Good! Techie Santa recommends heading to Cyberzone, the ultimate technology and lifestyle center of SM Supermalls. Not only does Cyberzone have more than 1,000 authorized distributors and service centers for the world's most renowned IT brands, it is also present in 40 locations nationwide.

Visit a Cyberzone near you. For more updates, visit www.smcyberzone.com or like and follow Cyberzone's Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts (@smcyberzone) to further discover why there's only one place that's got it all for the techie you.





Make your stories come to life with the **STARMOBILE** **KNIGHT Spectra**

Uploading photos and videos onto our social networks is the preferred means to tell people about what's going on in our lives. And why not? It's quick, it's easy, and just about everyone has a smartphone.

But when it comes to taking those photos that celebrate life's little (and large) moments, not all smartphones are created equal.

Enter the Starmobile KNIGHT Spectra, the most advanced Filipino cameraphone with dual rear cameras. Designed for social shutterbugs, the KNIGHT Spectra is just what you need to up your game when it comes to taking share-worthy pics.

"The Starmobile KNIGHT Spectra is our most advanced cameraphone to date," said Starmobile vice chairman and product development head Michael Chen. "With its unique dual rear sensors and built-in Star Cam functionality it takes the mobile point-and-shoot experience to even greater heights."

The two camera modules work together to help you take photos that really stand out. Here's how the system works: the 2-megapixel sensor gathers data like light, exposure, and distance, allowing the 13-megapixel sensor to take brilliant photos more quickly and accurately.

"The result is faster focusing, amazing colors, sharper details, and automatic distortion correction the likes of which can only be found in high-end point-and-shoot cameras," said Chen.

Add to this, Starmobile's unique Star Cam functions enable you to do the following:

CHOOSE THE FOCAL POINT OF YOUR SHOT AFTER TAKING THE PHOTO.

All you have to do is tap on the object (or person, face, etc.) you want to focus on! With Star Cam's Super ReFocus, the dual rear camera takes photos at 10 varying lengths then compresses them into a single file.

TAKE PHOTOS AT EXACTLY THE RIGHT EXPOSURE LEVEL.

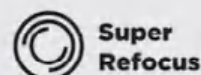
Hate how dark photos look when you don't use the flash, but also detest the overexposure that results when you do it with a normal smartphone cam? Chroma Flash lets your phone take two photos—one with flash and one without—in rapid succession, combining them into a single file for a better overall pic.

ZOOM IN WITHOUT COMPROMISING PHOTO TEXTURE AND SHARPNESS.

Using your smartphone to take photos of that rocking concert you're attending? Or maybe you want to capture precious moments at a loved one's birthday, graduation, or wedding. Opti Zoom shoots multiple photos simultaneously to improve the quality of those close-up shots.



For automatic distortion correction, faster focusing, and vibrant colors.



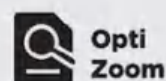
Change the focal point of a photo after you've taken a shot



w/o Chroma Flash



Enhanced flash performance for low light environments



Enhanced digital zoom for sharper and more detailed images



"But what about when you aren't taking photos?" you must be wondering. Starmobile's KNIGHT Spectra is more than just a camera with smartphone capabilities.

For one thing, you can multitask, play graphics-heavy games, download files, and stream videos faster than you would be able to on your run-of-the-mill 3G smartphone, thanks to a Qualcomm octa-core CPU, 3GB of RAM, LTE connectivity, and 32GB of internal memory expandable with a micro SD card.

You can also get your entertainment on the go with the KNIGHT Spectra's 5.5-inch full-HD AMOLED screen and Digital TV (DTV) function.

With DTV, not only can you watch crystal-clear, cable quality TV wherever DTV services are available—and it's available in over 65 countries worldwide—but this 100-percent free service lets you do record shows in real time so you can watch your favorite shows whenever you wish.

Can't wait to get your hands on this smartphone? The Starmobile KNIGHT Spectra is now available in Starmobile stores and resellers nationwide for PHP14,990.

For more information on the smartphone and its specs and availability, visit www.starmobile.com.ph or go to Starmobile's official Facebook page at facebook.com/starmobilephones.

FUSS-FREE CLEANING

— WITH —

dyson **FLUFFY DC74**

Words by Jonah Mendoza | Photos by Benedict Asal

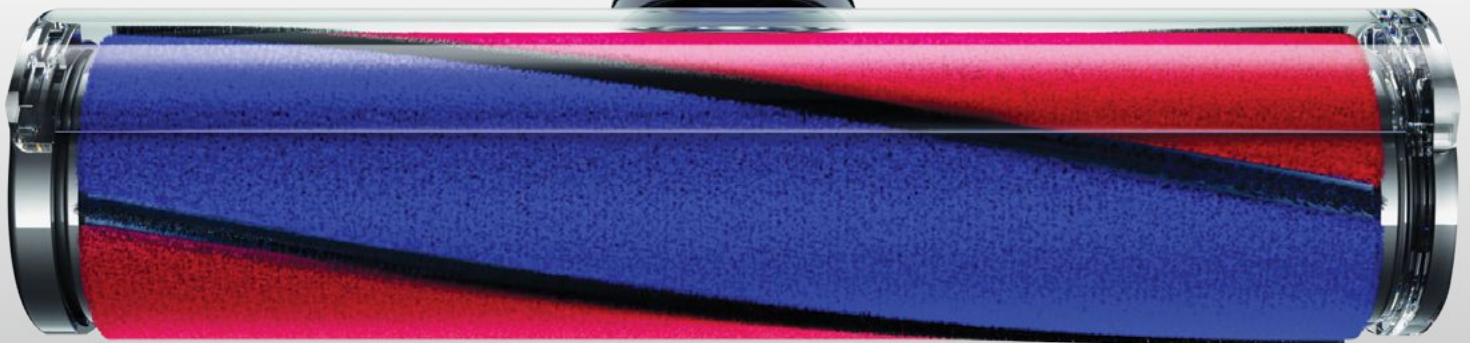
There was a time when chores took a lot of effort and were excruciatingly tiring, but times have changed and technology has evolved. The burden of scrubbing floors, dusting the tiniest nooks, and mopping up spills is a tiring thought. Cleaning appliances like the old, bulky, heavy-duty vacuum cleaners hardly seem helpful, with their bulk, noise, and power consumption. These household problems are all solvable by the company that provides an efficient, minimalist design: Dyson. The era of traditional vacuum cleaners is over with the new Dyson Fluffy DC74.

Dyson launched its newest line of home appliances at Shangri-La Plaza in Mandaluyong City, with the star of the show being the Dyson Fluffy DC74. Its light weight automatically gives it an edge for anyone who wants to clean their homes without the hassle. Don't let its minimal design and small frame fool you. The motor spins at 120,000RPM, or about five times faster than a Formula 1 car engine.

Its cordless technology enables you to move around and clean even the most hard-to-reach spaces around the house without being restrained by wires. The soft nylon cleaner head with carbon strips is capable of sucking in large debris and micro-dust that our eyes aren't even able to see. Debris is stored in a clear bin which is easily emptied with just one click, as it detaches easily from the body of the vacuum cleaner.

The brush bar is also interchangeable with eight additional tools designed depending on the space that you need to clean, whether it's your car, walls, floors, or furniture.

Pricing for the Dyson Fluffy DC74 is at PHP 38,500. It is available in Century City Mall (Dyson Concept Store), Rustan's Makati, Rustan's Shangri-La, Rustan's Cebu, Rustan's Gateway, Abenson Ascott, Duty Free Philippines, Anson's Makati, Robinson's Appliance Magnolia, True Value Rockwell, True Value Estancia and True Value 8 Forbes.



THE IPOD

Words by Ren Alcantara

Few things are more personal than one's musical choices. You can tell so much of a person from what they listen to, and from radio, to the various music storage media such as cassettes, the DAT, and CDs (which were a stopgap solution at best), mobile listening has always been high on the list of human priorities. No device changed things so drastically in such a big way in recent history as the iPod. The iPod, with its 5GB hard drive at its launch in 2001, saw meager sales at the beginning, due to its Apple-only compatibility, despite its elegant design and simple, easy-to-use controls particularly when compared against other players at the time. Windows support and the promise of 1,000 songs in your pocket in a gorgeous, elegant device was too much to resist though, and by the time the fourth generation came along, everyone was hooked.

The first iPod, with a mechanical scroll wheel, iconic white earbuds, monochrome display, and separate buttons for track controls was available with either 5 or 10GB of storage, and could play music for 10 hours. This was followed by a 10 and 20GB version, and a new, touch-sensitive clickwheel less than a year after. The third generation iPod, with the clickwheel and track controls just below the screen was replaced in 2004 by the 20 and 40GB version that had all the controls integrated into the clickwheel, to create the final, elegant form of the iPod classic that would stay with us until the end.

More variations, mostly involving the screen, and storage space would continue to come out, with other types being made available concurrently, such as the beautifully colored iPod mini, which would later be replaced with the wonderfully small iPod Nano, which changed from long and rectangular, to short

and squat, then back again, before turning into the screen-only touchscreen square in 2010, and finally the 7th generation Nano in 2012. Avid users will also remember the iPod shuffle, with its screen-less design and play and go usability intended for working out.

The iPod revolutionized mobile listening and was responsible for more than a few retired portable CD players. The prospect of not just bringing a few select tracks, but potentially your whole music collection was a great boon for music lovers, but in particular for the casual listeners who just wanted to load up tracks and go. That, plus the fashionable, accessory-like styling made it an instant hit with the lifestyle crowd. Sales of the iPod peaked in 2008 (around the time of the 4th Generation iPod Nano) when portable music players were still the primary way to listen to music on the move. From there, sales began to drop, likely as phones started



to better handle music and video playback. While iPods from the third generation Nano could play video as well, it wasn't the most pleasant experience given the small screens they had. Once phones had proven themselves fully capable music devices in their own right (ironically helped along by the iPhone, which was being sold the whole time), the days of the standalone Apple music player were numbered.

The iPod Classic, sole holdout of the "true" iPod stable, with a whopping 160GB of storage, was phased out in 2014. It was the end of an era, but in a world where phones could play music on their own, and streaming services plus mobile internet were commonplace, it was a dinosaur, but one we remember fondly. Their spirit lives on in the iPhones we have today, but there's something about the nostalgia of that hard-drive-based music player, and their iconic white earbuds.





The Google Asia-Pacific Conference

Words by Ren Alcantara

Google is responsible for a lot of tech wizardry we've all grown to not only love, but depend on. Search, Translate, Photos, YouTube—all of these are such a part of our daily lives, we hardly think about even using them. Just last month, we got a ticket to see exactly just how the magic happens, and got a quick peek behind the curtain at Google Japan.

Google has been working very hard of late to make changes in how software works. We're starting to move from pure logic, to something more closely resembling AI that thinks for itself. It's not a single approach that is getting them there though, but a combination of different solutions, each more clever than the last. From the technology in our cars, to auto-pilot programs, to search and translation, it all seems like magic on the surface, but the real answer is much more interesting.

Greg Cornado of Google Mountainview gave us a brief idea of just how things are starting to shape up. Instead of creating processes through which information passes, with logic gates that go one way or another, we're now going into Machine Learning (ML) that teaches AI to actually learn from the data it encounters or is fed. The more data points are fed, and the more information the process has access to, the better the machine will be able to extrapolate useful information. Data is the fuel for all of this, and nobody is better at amassing data than Google. Machines are more and more being patterned after how our own brains work, making connections, using networks of what are the machine equivalent of neural clusters to come to conclusions about information. For example, one layer of the program looks solely at colors of an image, another layer might look at the edges of items in the photo, and yet another one knows to look for eyes. Each won't necessarily know what the other layer is doing, but then a group higher up on the pyramid of layers can use the information

gathered and created by the lower layers, it can start to identify a yellow Labrador from a host of other pictures.

ML is in real, current-generation Google products. From Search, to Translate, and Photos, it's here now, though at this point, it's only starting to ramp up. The only reason it hadn't happened sooner is that it's only recently that computers have gotten fast enough to realistically, reliably, and consistently perform the tasks necessary.

The most dramatic example we got was in the Photos app. Launched in May, Photos now has 100 million users, which is a lot of data for Google to play with. It's now the home for all your photos, where they can be organized, searched, and shared. With hardly any user input (you still have to tell it the names behind the faces, much like you would introduce a new friend to someone), Photos is able to group photos by person, place, what kind of thing they are, where they were taken, and lots of other categories. Yes, it recognizes things.





If you haven't tried it yet, you can do so now. If you want to see all the photos you have ever taken of a particular friend, you can go right to Photos, type the friend's name in, and it should show you all the photos you have of said friend. If you want to see that friend's photos taken at, say, The Eiffel Tower, you can further qualify the search with the location (say, Mike at the Eiffel Tower), and those results should pop up.

It gets even more impressive.

If you remember having taken a photo of a turtle, as the speaker did, you can simply type

"turtle" in to the search bar, and you'll get all the turtle photos you have in your collection. While seemingly magic, it's machine learning at work. It takes search data, and feeds it through different layers or processes, much like the human brain works. Each layer looks at a different thing, narrowing possibilities down until the correct match is found. This happens remotely for now, as it does require more power than is available on a smartphone, but it's still very impressively effective.

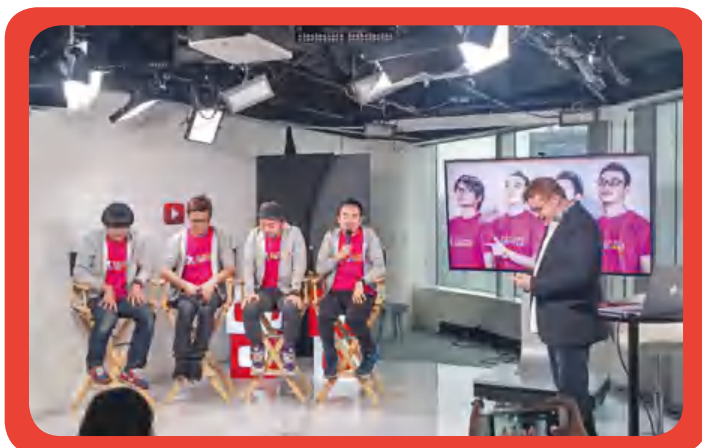
There are a lot of things it considers before making a call. There are models in place that



understand the elements in an event. For example, if you have a photo taken in October, with people in costume, it will know that that photo is probably a Halloween photo.

We also got to take a look at the YouTube space in Tokyo. A fully-functioning content-production facility, the space has multiple studios, dressing rooms, editing rooms, and cameras—everything you need for your video creating needs. One of eight YouTube Spaces globally, the Tokyo space is everything you would expect a TV studio would be, except it is open to all YouTube creators, giving them access to hardware, software, and resources that they would otherwise not be able to get their hands on. This was a very impressive place, and while we were there, we were fortunate enough to see some on-going production. From props, to lights, to cameras, and staff, it was just amazing to see everything Google had done to give content creators a better ability to make content. Meant to be YouTube's front door and the physical manifestation of YouTube, the spaces are also a place for creators to meet, exchange ideas, and skills, and connect with each other, all towards the goal of giving people more content.

Google has been up to a lot recently, and if what we saw is any indication, we're going to be seeing so much more in the near future. Smartphones, apps for education, smarter AI, they're all here. We just have to get up and use it.



KASPERSKY

APAC CYBER SECURITY SUMMIT

Words by Mia Carisse Barrientos

After a whole day at work, you decide to go for a drink at the tranquil coffee shop you frequent. You proceed to your nook and connect to the shop's Wi-Fi network—just as you would do every day. Two sips into your favorite drink, a man walks up to you and asks if he could share the table with you. You hastily agree despite seeing unoccupied tables in the shop and thought to yourself: why ruin a good day with a squabble, when you can just share? Just as you would proceed to continue what you were doing, the stranger speaks up. He goes on to recite your whole name, your address, where you work, and all your activities online. Despite being terrified, you muster the courage to ask how he got those information. With a playful smirk, he said, you and all the people in the café were easy targets. You gave away your information, without knowing it, when you connected to the café's public Wi-Fi network.

Sounds familiar? If you've seen at least an episode of the cyber-thriller drama *Mr. Robot*, you'll know everyone, even big corporations, are vulnerable to cyber-attacks. As we take huge strides towards adapting the digital lifestyle, we also expose ourselves to the troubles that come with it: malware, cyber espionage, ransomware, and many others.

We were at the Grand Lexis Resort in Port Dickson, Malaysia to attend Kaspersky Lab's APAC Cyber Security Summit and we'll share with you what we learned about hacker and tech culture from Kaspersky Lab's Global and Research Analysis Team (GReAT).

CYBER RISKS WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF

As soon as we hit the submit button during sign up for social media sites, we already permanently give away part of our identities on the Internet. And even if we decide to delete it, we still leave small bits and traces that can make stealing your information easier for just about anyone.

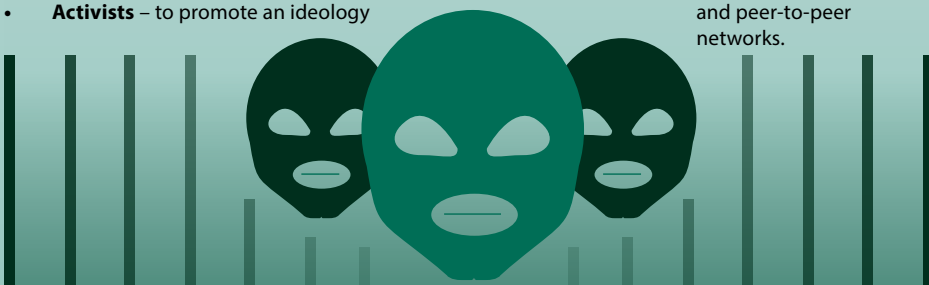
Before we proceed further, allow us to give you an insight on who the adversaries are and their motives behind such villainous acts:

- **Hostile Nation-States** – described as the most sophisticated threat because the motivation behind attacks is largely political.
- **Criminal Groups** – easily those who do people wrong for monetary gain
- **Activists** – to promote an ideology

- **Enthusiast Hackers** – are those who terrorize just because they enjoy the challenge and prestige.
- **Industrial/Economic Espionage** – this large scale illegal activity is fuelled by the motive to steal proprietary information.

Now that we've classified who the cyber perpetrators are, let's move on to their activities. One of the current bouts against cyber criminals in the APAC region is bank attacks. We've seen posts on social media about ATMs getting hacked and having fake keypads on them. There's also plenty of online banking mishaps that's been going around in which cybercriminals have victimized unsuspecting account holders through fake bank websites. One of the biggest cybergangs, Carbanak, was able to steal USD 1-billion through infecting ATM machines, harvesting intelligence, and mimicking the bank staff.

Another threat is cyber espionage. In this issue, we'll look into the Dark Hotel case to further understand the dangers of this cybercrime. Let's take executive A as an example. He goes to check into this 5-star hotel, after connecting to the hotel's Wi-Fi network he receives a software update and as soon as he clicks, he gets a malicious executable. Little did he know that the attackers already knew he was checking into X hotel and compromised the hotel Wi-Fi network prior to it. Responsible for these attacks are cybergangs Naikon and Hellsing APT which infect victims' devices through spear-phishing and peer-to-peer networks.





Kurt Baumgartner explains what targeted attacks and cyber-espionage are, plus what companies should know about these types of attack.

Vitaly Kamuk, principal security researcher, GReAT, gives an overview of the current cyber threats in the APAC region, followed by a prediction of cyber risks and threats for 2016.

PREDICTIONS: WHAT'S THE CYBERCRIME LANDSCAPE GOING TO LOOK LIKE IN 2016?

On a global scale, here's what security researchers from Kaspersky Lab's GReAT have predicted:

- The world will soon see the end of Advanced Persistent Threats (APT) as it is no longer in demand. However, it will be replaced by harder to detect attacks.
- Attackers will target researchers by compromising industry standard tools.
- Ransomware—a malware that prevents users from accessing their system and forces victims to pay ransom in exchange for their data—will grow bigger in 2016: spreading across platforms such as mobile and OS X-run devices, and as Internet of Things (IoT) comes to fruition attackers will also branch out to lock down IoT-devices in exchange for money.

As for the APAC region, here's what we should know:

- With the advancement of technology, targeted attackers will also become more mature.
- The financial sector will be targeted by foreign organized criminal groups.
- Cyberattackers will ask for cryptocurrency—digital currency—in exchange of, for example, unlocking your system, instead of cold, hard cash.
- There will be a rise in cyber sabotage incidents.

The good news is, security researchers are working on the double to create solutions to provide users a line of defense against the aforementioned problems. Recently, Kaspersky Lab announced that it has increased its decryption keys to a total of 14,031 at noransom.kaspersky.com, putting an end to CoinVault and BitCryptor.

HOW CAN WE PROTECT OURSELVES FROM THESE ATTACKS?

Unless you choose to go and live in the mountains of the Himalayas, away from technology, you are not safe from cyber-attacks. However, you could keep yourself off the victim demographics by following these tips:

- Do you still use your birthday or you mom's name as your password? It's time to change that. Switch around letters and numbers to give cyber foes a harder time figuring out what your password is.
- Carefully inspect email links and attachments, never download if it appears suspicious.
- Install proven anti-virus software, or if you already have one, make sure it's up to date.
- You may want to enable some of the modules of protection you think are slowing your device down. Your device is most likely to get infected without it.

THE LAST FRONTIER: "THE INTERNET OF US"

With the Internet of Things slowly becoming a reality, the concept of chipping humans to improve human-tech interaction floated up the surface. Present technologies now make smart chip implantations safe and totally effective.

Intended as an identification device, the 2x12mm glass-encapsulated, passive 13.56MHz chip can allow you access to devices that support NFC. A biohacker/grinder—someone who designs and installs body-enhancements—will pull up a fold of skin and implant the chip by injecting it into the space between the thumb and pointer finger.

The chip will sit snugly just below the surface of the skin—and will move around occasionally; not to be alarmed, it's completely normal. If you are interested, the whole procedure costs



Jesmond Chang, acting director of corporate communications, Kaspersky Lab APAC, volunteers to get a chip implant.

around USD 99, while the chip can be bought at dangerousthings.com.

While this emerging trend sounds exciting, as with anything, there are dangers to it. As the chip carries information—basically making it a key for everything—it will attract the attention of cybercriminals; you will be under their target radar, which puts your life at risk. This is why Kaspersky Lab is working with BioNyfiken create solutions and secure the biohacking community, while learning more, from a security aspect, about the implications of these biohacks.

With countless enhancements being done in this unusual yet remarkable branch of tech, apart from identification and access, those with the chip will be able to activate things, log activities, verify transactions, do payment transfers, monitor health, and much more with just hand-device contact in the future.

Startups and big data get top billing at SOFTCON.PH 2015



Startups and big data analytics were among the top topics in this year's **SOFTCON.PH: BREAKING THE CODE**, organized by the Philippine Software Industry Association (PSIA), held last November 4 to 5, 2015 at the Marriott Grand Ballroom in Pasay City.

The rise of startups in the Philippines is reflected by the number of angel investors pouring money into local companies. Globe Telecom and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) established Kickstart Ventures and IdeaSpace, respectively, with the goal of introducing venture capital investing in the country. This has already produced a number of startups, most of which are related to the technology industry.

Arup Maity, PSIA Board Director, says startups are becoming a new industry where software developers are needed. He notes that the Philippines has considerable number of experts in a number of programming languages, including those for the mobile platform.

STARTUPS AS MILLION-DOLLAR INDUSTRY

Maity, who served as moderator for the *Startup Ecosystem and Investment* panel discussion at SOFTCON.PH, adds that millions of dollars are being poured into innovative application development and that the Philippines should tap into its community of developers and technology infrastructure to either service startup communities around the world or even become startups themselves.

"It's an exciting time to be a developer but it's also a challenging one because you have to be familiar with changing software requirements especially on mobile," Maity says. "Thankfully, programmers in the Philippines are adept. We also need to get investors interested in coming on board."

Among the panelists on startup investments were Paco Sandejas of Narra Venture Capital, John Orrock of Future Now Ventures, Earl Valencia of IdeaSpace, Christian Besler of Kickstart Ventures, and Monchito Ibrahim of the Department of Science and Technology – Information and Communications Technology Office (DOST-ICTO).

BIG DATA IS BIG GROWTH PROSPECT

Amid the growth of cloud computing is big data analytics, a process of evaluating data to find patterns, correlations, and other useful information for better decision making. Many companies are now looking towards big data analytics as a means to secure the sustainability of their long-term plans.

While there are applications that enable companies to pursue big data analytics, one essential aspect of successfully traversing it is having data scientists.

Big data analytics and building data scientists were among the key topics at **SOFTCON.PH 2015**. The discussion focused on addressing how companies can achieve return-in-investments and develop skills to implement predictive analytic capabilities. It also looked into the opportunities

posed by demand for big data analytics in terms of building a pool of highly-qualified data scientists.

Presenting in this topic was Drew Perez of Adatos Pte. Ltd; Mary Rose Dela Cruz of Stratpoint Technologies served as moderator. Among the participants in the discussion were Alvin Gendrano of Smart, Allan De Jesus of HP, and John Gonzales of PLDT.

TWO-DAY SOFTWARE EXTRAVAGANZA

Other talks during the first day of SOFTCON.PH were: Developing on a mobile platform; Internet of Things; new training programs to produce better software programmers and engineers; and software-driven business strategies.

The second day featured dedicated talks for programmers. Among the tracks were: Feedback and continuous delivery in software development; security protocols; Agile engineering, refactoring and domain-driven design; performance tuning of mobile applications; building financial systems with microservices; risk-based exploratory testing; automation; quality management; and user experience interface management.

SOFTCON.PH: BREAKING THE CODE was organized by the Philippine Software Industry Association (PSIA) in partnership with PLDT-Smart SME Nation and PLDT Alpha Enterprise, Accenture, Pointwest Technologies, IP-Converge, and Secure Metric Technology.

Acumatica cloud business solutions goes around Asia



Jon Roskill, CEO of Acumatica

Cloud enterprise resource planning (ERP) company Acumatica held its first International Integrated Solutions Providers Tour drawing over 200 partners and customers in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Manila, Philippines; and Jakarta, Indonesia.

"Businesses and organizations large and small want robust software solutions that can help their management empower their people to make the right decisions, maintain profitability, and build a sustainable future ahead. Acumatica is proud to be able to meet their needs with our strong lineup of business solutions created by our growing stable of

international and local independent software vendors," said Jon Roskill, chief executive officer of Acumatica.

The tour focuses on cost-effective vertical enterprise solutions for businesses such as retail, manufacturing, business intelligence, warehouse management, and distribution management.

"Asian businesses are growing and expanding rapidly beyond their shores. To support their growth, customers are demanding user-friendly world-class business and management solutions based on industry best practices and global standards of compliance. Acumatica is able to offer them the solutions that allow their users to work anywhere at any time and on any device," said Laurent Dedenis, president of international operations at Acumatica.

Acumatica already has an established presence in 30 countries worldwide, with big brands such as Abbott Nutrition, BreadTalk, Calpis, KFC, Pizza Hut, Samsung, Singha and Leo Beers, TH True Milk, Tan Hiep Phat Beverage Group (THP), Yamazaki Bakery, and Vina AceCook among those enjoying easier resource management. Acumatica's local user base includes Armadillo Holdings, Inc. The Legend brand of hotels and resorts, Big Scoop, and Himlayang Pilipino, Inc.

PhilCare and Samsung revolutionize healthcare availment with NFC cards



Chad Sotelo, corporate marketing head of Samsung Electronics Philippines Co., with Noemi Azura, CEO and president of PhilCare.

Leading health care provider PhilCare partnered with Samsung Electronics Philippines Co. to offer the first near field communication or NFC-capable membership card designed to make availment of health services from hospitals faster, more efficient, and close to paperless.

NFC, the radio frequency technology considered by experts worldwide as "the next best thing" in mobile transaction, continues its integration in the Philippines—this time providing a much needed upgrade in the way healthcare is delivered to thousands of Filipinos.

NFC, a form of wireless, radio-wave technology, allows

ensure the secure transfer of data.

"We are proud to introduce this new technology to the HMO industry. We've been looking for the best technology to make medical services smoother and more convenient for our clients and providers and NFC seems to be the perfect fit for this goal," said Noemi Azura, CEO and president of PhilCare.

The NFC-capable card means to do away with the usual tedious process of availing health services from health maintenance organizations (HMO). In most cases, hospitals require cardholders to secure letters of authorization from their HMOs before getting medical services.

two objects—a reader device and a storage device—to send and receive information via brief contact. In this case, PhilCare membership cards will simply need to be tapped on Samsung devices to

All these are no longer necessary for NFC-powered PhilCare cards as members only need to hand over their cards to any of the 200 service providers of PhilCare with NFC-capable phones from Samsung.

With a single tap, hospitals and clinics can now determine coverage and benefits of a member, as well as other details of the member's account.

Samsung smartphones have long been equipped with NFC technology, used for quick file transfers, payments and other transactions. Each mobile device is equipped with security features from the hardware level, and can be further enhanced with Samsung's propriety security platform to protect such transactions from being leaked or breached.

"R&D is at the heart of what we do, allowing us to continuously produce innovative products and offer progressive solutions for like-minded, forward looking institutions like PhilCare. Ultimately, it is our goal to enrich the lives of people," said Chad Sotelo, corporate marketing head, Samsung Electronics Philippines Co.

This new technology is the first of its kind in the Philippine health care industry and allows patient information to be updated in real-time, ensuring quick, efficient, and accurate service.

Cherry Mobile and Globe Telecom team up to offer Cherry Prepaid

Cherry Mobile has recently announced its co-branding partnership with Globe Telecom to launch the new Cherry Prepaid SIM and phone bundles.

The prepaid service, touted Cherry Prepaid powered by Globe, bundles high quality mobile phones and prepaid service into one affordable package. With flexible starter options for as low as PHP 399 (phone and Cherry Prepaid SIM bundle) and a SIM-only option for only PHP 29, users can immediately call, text, and surf the Internet.

"This year marks another milestone for the company. After dominating the market with its hip entertainment-on-the-go TV and multimedia smartphones, Cherry Mobile gets even better as it partners with Globe to provide Filipinos with the newest and most diversified prepaid mobile service—the game-changing Cherry Prepaid powered by Globe," said Cherry Mobile chief executive officer Maynard Ngu.

On the co-branding agreement, Globe president and CEO Ernest Cu said that it forms part of the



Globe

telco's commitment to further the digital lifestyle of the mass market segment, leveraging on Cherry Mobile's strong foothold in the prepaid market with its exciting device offerings.

"With competition in the mobile industry getting more intense and cutthroat, this co-branding agreement will allow us to explore business models that will generate new revenue streams

as well as strengthen our position in the prepaid segment and as the network of choice for smartphone users," Cu added.

Moreover, the partnership brings with it a Bonus Load feature exclusive to Cherry Prepaid subscribers. Users can receive PHP 10 to PHP 300 bonus load monthly depending on the starter package they are subscribed to.

AMD R9 GPUs to ship with Oculus-ready PCs



AMD has struck up partnerships with Oculus and Dell to have its Radeon graphics cards aboard Oculus-ready PCs at a starting price of USD 999.

The PCs will be taking advantage of AMD's LiquidVR and Graphics Core Next architecture to deliver a seamless virtual reality experience.

"It's an exciting time to be at the heart of all things virtual reality," said Roy Taylor, corporate vice president for alliances and content at AMD. "I'm confident that with Dell and Alienware, we can enable a wide audience of PC users with extraordinary VR capabilities powered by AMD Radeon GPUs."

AMD LiquidVR allows for low-latency performance and plug-and-play compatibility with VR headsets for a comfortable time in virtual space.

"For nearly 20 years, Alienware has been a leader in performance and innovation for PC gaming; virtual reality is the next frontier and we plan to innovate and lead in the same way, with the same passion," said Frank Azor, co-founder and general manager for Alienware. "Partnering with the performance of AMD graphics and the innovation of Oculus provides an incredible opportunity for Alienware to deliver something awesome for our users."

Detailed information on Oculus Ready PCs can be found at www.oculus.com/ja/oculus-ready-pcs/.

WD Green hard drive models to transition into WD Blue drives



Western Digital®

WD has just announced that the WD Green hard drive models will soon be part of the WD Blue family of drives. This is in part of the company's efforts to simplify the hard drive selection process for customers by streamlining its

model families for mainstream PCs to only the WD Blue line.

All currently shipping WD Green line models will remain available until stocks run out. WD Black

models will remain in the PC drive family, but will be improved for high-performance applications such as gaming, for workstation use, and for those building high-end systems.

WD's color-coded product portfolio enables customers to easily choose the right hard drive designed for their intended application. Its other color offering includes WD Red for network-attached storage (NAS) appliances and WD Purple for video surveillance systems. Meanwhile, WD's datacenter drives are part of the gold label.

"The market for mass storage has expanded broadly beyond the PC," said Amy Tan, senior sales manager, South Asia, WD. "Every application for storage requires different hard drive attributes for optimal data recording and preservation, and every drive WD designs has a specific purpose. What can be easier for customers than matching a color to their application? Moving forward, they will only need to know whether they are building PC, high-performance, NAS, video surveillance or datacenter systems."

WD My Cloud NAS joins Acer's cloud ecosystem



WD recently reported that its My Cloud NAS can now be accessed by users of the Acer Build Your Own Cloud (BYOC) ecosystem, giving them another means of easily obtaining their files anywhere via the Acer *abFiles* app.

"We are excited to welcome WD to the BYOC ecosystem," said Maverick Shih, president, BYOC business group, Acer. "The availability of *abFiles* for the My Cloud platform allows our joint customers to enjoy seamless file management across their

personal devices, with all of their files always at their fingertips, regardless of whether the file is on their PC or their NAS drive."

"We are delighted to be partnering with Acer to the benefit of our mutual customers," added Sven Rathjen, VP and GM of network content solutions for WD. "Now our customers can find *abFiles* on the My Cloud app center to download for free, and incorporate their My Cloud into Acer's BYOC ecosystem."

abFiles currently supports the My Cloud Mirror, My Cloud Expert Series, and My Cloud Business series.

Those looking to use the software need only log-in with their Acer ID using the web administrator interface, and the My Cloud NAS will automatically be added to their own BYOC system. By taking advantage of their own personal cloud infrastructure instead of depending on a third-party data center, users are guaranteed privacy and control over their own files.

Purchase games and in-app content fast with PayMaya

Smart eMoney, Inc., recently introduced PayMaya, a digital payment service that allows users to conveniently buy in-app content without having to purchase codes or cards.

The first reloadable virtual Visa in the Philippines, PayMaya allows players to purchase content directly on the *iTunes App Store*, *Google Play Store*, *Steam*, and *PlayStation Network* (PSN).

To get your PayMaya Visa virtual account all you have to do is go to Google Play or Apple Store, download the PayMaya mobile app, and register by filling out the required information. Your own PayMaya virtual Visa will be instantly generated by the app for your immediate reloading and use. It works as good as using a physical Visa card, the only fee to be aware of is the load-up fee, which costs just around PHP 15 for every PHP 100-1000 peso load up.

Load-up centers are available at 7-Eleven stores, Robinson's and SM Business Centers, and soon on Ministop and Family Mart. Also, friends who have upgraded their PayMaya accounts can even send money to each other through the app, should they need to borrow extra cash when they play together. Apart from games, users can also purchase items online from any Visa-accepting store.



For who want more than a virtual Visa card, physical PayMaya cards are also being sold at select venues. These physical PayMaya cards can

be used in any of the over 30,000 establishments accepting Visa. Visit www.paymaya.com for more information.

Leica Philippines celebrates first year of operation

Premium German camera manufacturer Leica recently celebrated its first anniversary by launching the new Leica SL mirrorless digital camera alongside a new photo gallery.

"We believe that there's more than meets the eye. There are stories and certain types of beauty that can only be recognized once they're zoomed in or viewed from the lens—and it is what constantly drives Leica to innovate," said Ivan Yao, managing director of Lucerne, Leica's local partner. "We are very happy to share this passion in photography with the Filipinos and being in Manila for a year now is indeed a great milestone," he added.

Managing director of Leica Camera Asia Pacific, Sunil Kaul noted, "101 years of photographic history at Leica stands for generations of scientists and precision engineers who were never satisfied with anything that was only just tolerable. It had to be the best. German precision engineering and a worldwide ambassador for 'Made in Germany'; Leica cameras attained the status of coveted collectors pieces and status symbols. I send only my best congratulations to Lucerne on an excellent job in providing a destination for photography enthusiasts to exchange and share their stories."

The new Leica Gallery's first display is "Fade Into Light," a travel photography collection by AP Murillo and Raul Echivarre that focuses on the fishery industry in Currimaio, Ilocos Norte. The two artists were also all praise for the latest Leica SL camera.

"While its size and weight has been a factor in choosing this system, what really sets it apart from other compact systems is its ability to enable us to use rangefinder focusing," said Murillo.

"The Leica RF system, paired with its high quality lenses, makes it a very irresistible proposition. RF focusing surprisingly yields very sharp results almost as if the images were manually focused.



To use a different system is something that is unthinkable ever since we shifted to this five years ago," added Echivarre.

Leica Store Philippines is located at the Lower Ground Floor, Greenbelt 5, Makati City. For more information, visit www.leica-camera.com.

Epson launches new SureColor textile printers in style

In the forefront of establishing trends in the digital textile printing industry, Epson is once again setting the bar high with the release of its newest SureColor textile printers.

Touted as the company's next generation textile dye-sublimation printers, the SC-F6270, the SC-F7270, and the SC-F9270 feature a new high-density black ink that produces richer black prints. This is beneficial for high-volume commercial applications that require impressive print quality at a low running cost.

"Epson has the most complete line of professional imaging printers in the industry—each one customized to deliver the best quality and most productive digital prints. This is how Epson will continue to innovate, because we believe that our customers and end-users deserve to have a reliable printing partner that fully understands their needs and passions," concludes Epson regional managing director and EPC country manager Toshimitsu Tanaka.

During the event, the spotlight was on the F9270. Dubbed as Epson's most advanced textile printer, the F9270 is capable of delivering remarkable performance by combining the speed, precision, and durability of the PrecisionCore printhead technology with an original dual 1.5L ink tank system. All the aforementioned technologies make for highly efficient and reliable production runs.

"Epson has integrated the speed, precision and durability of PrecisionCore technology—Epson's foremost printhead technology, to create

this digital textile printer masterpiece. It is a testimony of Epson's perseverance to stay ahead of the burgeoning growth of digital textile printing for fashion and other applications.

Digital textile printing trend in Asia Pacific is the largest and fastest growing market with a Compound Annual Growth Rate or CAGR of 21.4 percent," explained Shaun See, regional head of Epson Commercial and Industrial (C&I) printers.

To better demonstrate the F9270's capabilities, the printer brought to life designs that pay homage to the beauty of the Philippines which was showcased through the "Print Your Passion" fashion show. The designs were created by

Asia's Most Influential Designer Avel Bacudio, who has recently utilized digital prints to bring his creative ideas to life.

"Our mission at Epson Professional Imaging is to always provide expertise in digital printing and make it possible for creative designers and other professionals to get their ideas out and directly on to their materials with high quality, speed, and minimal cost, unlike traditional methods. The F9270, with its faster speed provided by its dual print head, as well as our future endeavors, will continue to focus on this mission," said Epson Philippines C&I head Pamela Albar.



Avel Bacudio with the F9270



10 Reasons to get a Petron Loyalty Card

In addition to world-class fuels and engine oils specially formulated for Philippine driving conditions, market leader Petron Corporation also has a loyalty program specially designed to give greater rewards and benefits for Filipino motorists.

Here are ten reasons why you should get your own Petron loyalty card:

1) PETRON EURO 4 FUELS REDEMPTION

Every time you load up with a Petron Euro 4 fuel, you earn points that you can use to pay for your fuel purchases at participating Petron stations nationwide. When you gas up with Petron Blaze 100, Petron XCS, Petron Xtra Advance, Petron Super Xtra Gasoline, Petron Turbo Diesel, or Petron Diesel Max, you earn Peso points for every fuel spend. Each point is equivalent to PHP 1, so the more points you have, the more cash you can save.

2) PETRON ENGINE OILS POINTS EARNING

Using world-class Petron engine oils also allows you to earn bigger points, as every engine oil spend gives you peso points, for up to a maximum purchase amount of PHP 1,500 of lubricants per month.

3) PETRON GASUL DISCOUNT AND POINTS EARNING

For your household needs, you get a PHP10-discount with your Petron Gasul 11kg refill at a participating Petron Gasul store. At Petron service stations, every PHP 100 earns 1 point with your Petron Gasul 11kg refill.

4) POINTS CONVERSION TO CELLPHONE LOAD

Points may be converted to prepaid cellphone load using the specific mobile number registered under the card and can be loaded to any prepaid mobile number of your choice. Prepaid load credits are set at PHP 20, PHP 50 and PHP 100 for Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart, Talk N Text, and Sun Cellular mobile phones. You may redeem up to PHP 300 worth of prepaid load every month. Each successful redemption will be charged a 1-point convenience fee.

5) POINTS CONVERSION TO AIRLINE MILES

You can also convert your Petron points into Philippine Airlines Mabuhay Miles, Air Asia Big, and Cebu Pacific Get-go.

6) BIRTHDAY TREAT

When you gas up within five days from your birthday, you earn special bonus points. You must have properly registered your card via SMS in order to receive the birthday treat.

7) FREQUENT VISIT BONUS POINTS

Every fifth day of visit to Petron also gives you bonus points. Depending on your accumulated purchase amount from previous visits, you get additional Peso points.

8) FREE TOWING AND ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

In case of emergency, Petron loyalty card holders driving 4-wheel private vehicles are assured of free towing and roadside assistance services nationwide, courtesy of Ibero Asistencia. The only requirement is that the card holder must have earned 10 regular points from the preceding month. To avail of this service, simply call the hotline number (02) 459-4735. Terms and conditions apply. Note that there is no point deduction when you avail of this service.

9) FREE PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE

A Petron card holder who earns a minimum of 5 regular points every month is covered with free personal accident insurance from MAPFRE Insular. This includes accidental death and dismemberment benefits worth PHP 10,000 and medical reimbursement of PHP 1,000. While terms and conditions apply, there is no point deduction when availing of this benefit.

10) PARTNER MERCHANT DISCOUNTS AND PRIVILEGES

Enjoy freebies and discounts when you show your Petron loyalty card at partner establishments which include food outlets, health and wellness centers, hotels and other travel destinations, retail stores, and automotive services.

To enjoy all these benefits, all you have to do is sign up for one of the Petron loyalty cards such as the Petron Value Card for regular motorists, the Petron Super Driver Card for professional drivers of public utility vehicles, or the Petron Miles-Sweep Card associated with the tollways RFID payment system. You can easily get one for free at any participating Petron service station.



PETRON VALUE CARD

PAY WITH PESO POINTS, SAVE YOUR CASH

YEAR-ROUND BENEFITS



**Fuel
Peso Points**



**Frequent Visit
Bonus**



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**Petron Gasul
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**FREE Towing
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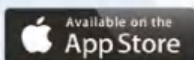
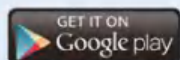
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**FREEbies &
Discounts**

At our partner restaurants,
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